

Plethodon asupak

NEW SPECIES – SCOTT BAR SALAMANDER

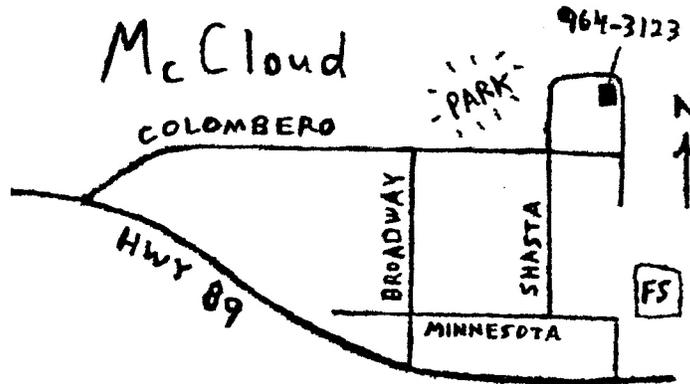
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. 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 2005

September	SAG meeting. There will be no SAG meeting in September.
September 16-18	Western Regional at Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp. Host grotto is MLG.
September 17	NCRC Introduction to Cave Rescue at Trout Lake, by John Punche.
September 24	Derrick Cave work day, contact David Draheim, (541) 947-6185.
October 1-2	Wilderness First Aid Training at Sequoia-Kings Canyon.
October 7-10	KMCTF Columbus Day Speleocamp.
October 14	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud (530) 964-3123.
October 15-16	Crystal Cave Restoration at Sequoia-Kings Canyon, by Joel Despain.
October 22-23	Crystal Cave Restoration at Sequoia-Kings Canyon, by Joel Despain.
August 7-11, 2006	NSS Convention, Bellingham, Washington.

Map to the Meeting

OCTOBER



SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

This issue of the SAG RAG is a little late, sorry about that, due to, well, caving! Watch for future material on the KMCTF September Speleocamp. In this issue, we bring you a newly described and identified salamander for our local area. These interesting creatures have to stay wet in order to breath, and so are quite fond of whatever dark and damp places they can find.

Juan de la Fuente has been contacting us lately on behalf of the National Forest, and this was a reminder to get something out on our grotto cave conservation work day we had last February. We'll make sure that Juan and Jim Stout get copies of the report. Finally, a small cave map is tossed out there, Castaway Cave, a 43 foot surface tube discovered by Jim Wolff and another cave dude in Shasta County last June. Have a good Fall, and keep it safe out there folks.

COVER: SAG RAG (22:2 Mar-Apr 2003) recently reviewed the Shasta Salamander. The Siskiyou Mountains Salamander has also been known for a good while. Now we have a new one – introducing the Scott Bar Salamander! In color, these guys are well camouflaged, maroon brown with tiny white spots. Part of the Scott Bar Salamander survival strategy is to creep down into the dampest and darkest of places during the dry summer. Some cavers can probably relate to that. For your enjoyment, an article on the new salamander is reprinted here with permission from the author, Joseph Vaile, and the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center.

BB

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING JULY 22, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 pm. at the Jackson home in Yreka.

Present were: Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Bill Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Russ Yoder, Jansen Cardy, David Kuhnel, Michelle Rowe, Ed Sitch, Thomas Sitch, Allen Sitch, and Jessie.

Minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$551.02.

Correspondence: An invitation for SAG to join the Karst Conservancy; more info at www.karstconservancy.org. There are karst field studies at Mammoth Cave. Geoff MacNaughton informs SAG that the new contact person at Oregon Caves is Elizabeth Hale. She is replacing Deanna DeWire. Bruce Bannerman sends info on a Cavers Cruise the Caribbean Feb. 19-20, 2006; more info at www.purrringtonlooms.com/cruise. This year the Rocky Mountain Regional is being held in Utah over the labor Day Weekend. Pre Registration is by Aug. 10 here is the Pre-Reg URL: www.caves.org/grotto/timpgrotto/Registration-PreReg.htm. The Western Region Annual Meeting will be held Sept. 17-18 at Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp and is hosted by the Mother lode Grotto; info www.caves.org/region/western/meeting.html. Request for a SAG Grotto patch by collector Steve Taylor. Melanie will take care of this. Looking for volunteers for National Public lands Day at Derrick Cave located in North Lake County Oregon, September 24th. The Lakeview BLM is working with Central Oregon Grotto volunteer, Ken Siegrist to inventory all of the potentially significant caves in the Derrick Cave vicinity. More info: contact Ken Siegrist at kds4858@peoplepc.com. Wilderness First Aid Training Sequoia-Kings Canyon October 1-2. Two day intensive first aid course directed by Wilderness Medicine Institute hosted by Western Region of the NSS; additional info at www.caves.org/region/westwer/wmi/. July 29-30 at lava Beds is an NCRC training for Search and Rescue groups. Cavers welcome to join in and help. Contact Cindy Heazlit. 12th Annual Symposium of Volcano Speleological Society will be in July of 2006 in Mexico. South of Mexico City, a lot of caving in long caves.

SAG RAG Report: Bill needs articles for the next issues. For example the Marbles trips, Black Stout and Enchanted Piper cave to name a few.

WebSite: no news available, but we get several people and requests through it.

Old Business: Ray Miller read the re-worked SAG Mission Statement. It will be published in the SAG RAG as a draft. Members may submit their feedback. Russ Yoder met with the WVG while caving in Washington, but did not get any definite feed back about them meeting with us in Aug. 19-21. We are not sure if they will show. Our meeting would be Aug. 20 with WVG at Shastine Crater.

New Business: Ray Miller informed us that Jim Kottinger's wife Bea passed away 2 days ago. The grotto will send a card and condolences. There will be no funeral and her ashes will be spread in Sept. on Catalina Island, CA. Bill will talk with Jim and possibly do a small obituary in the SAG RAG. Bea was not a member, but did take minutes at meetings in the past and they opened their homes to SAG meetings. Most of us knew her.

Trip Reports: The 4th of July weekend Liz Wolff, Russ Yoder, and Dave Kuhnel continued with the Catacombs resurvey. They continued to the end and then did the crossover up to Cleopatra's Tomb and on to Howard's Hole. In the process a radio was misplaced and later found. Russ Yoder caved in Washington July 11th over a four day weekend. It rained a lot and was cut short due to a lack of interest by local cavers and the weather. Russ went to Three Sinks and another cave he had previously dug out. The sand castles at Three Sinks are still OK. He saw 5-6 neat caves. He and another caver found a 40 foot passage under the breakdown in one cave.

About 2 years ago Ray Miller found an almost circular intact tube called LA Aqueduct. When there recently a down flow entrance was also found. This may tie into another cave, Lonesome Cave. Ray verified the GPS coordinates and says this cave(s) need another look.

Bill Broeckel says the June camp-out surveyed in Mad Hatter Cave another 500 feet extending it to 1200 ft. He thinks there is another lead of about 300 ft. or more that would make it as long as Christmas Tree Cave. Michelle Topman and Bill surveyed Creepy Cave. That is done and they don't want to go back. They also took a look at Mad Hatter and saw bats. Bill and his boys found Ice Plug Cave. It was plugged with ice, of course, but Bill has been back and now there is a hole starting to form. There is cold air flow and fog to be seen. He also found an 80 ft. upper level.

Visitor Thomas Sitch was at Ape Cave at the Base of Mt. St. Helens. He got maps on the Mt. Adams ice caves. He also saw lava tubes in Hawaii in Jan. He passed on entering those as they seemed to be peeling off

Meetings: Saturday August 20 at Shastine Crater with the WVG

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.
Respectfully submitted by Melanie Jackson

MJ

SAG's CAVE CONSERVATION TRIP – 2005

By Bighorn Broeckel

A dozen people turned out this year for the annual cave cleanup Feb. 19, 2005. This was the Saturday of Presidents Day Weekend. It was also the morning after the February Shasta Area Grotto meeting at the Kisling's place in Lake Shastina.

As I recall, it was a pleasant winter day with mild weather conditions. We met at the parking area for semi-developed Pluto's Cave. Some buckets were pulled out of the cars, and a stash of plastic garbage bags was found in the trash can. Jim Stout, our contact in the Forest Service, puts these bags at our disposal to use at this regular event. Ready to go to work, the group set sail down the trail to Pluto's Cave. Here is a role call of the participants.

Bill Broeckel	Arley Kisling
Paula Brown	Robert Nixon
Roger Brown	Neils Smith
Melanie Jackson	Jim Wolff
Bill Kenney	Liz Wolff
Cheryl Kenney	Russ Yoder

Sparky the cave dog also came along, but I can't remember which people belonged to Sparky. We started

at the top of the cave, and swept through the length of it, picking up bits and pieces of trash. What was missed on the way down, we had another chance to snatch on the way back out. Mostly we found fast food wrappers, beverage containers, and broken glass.

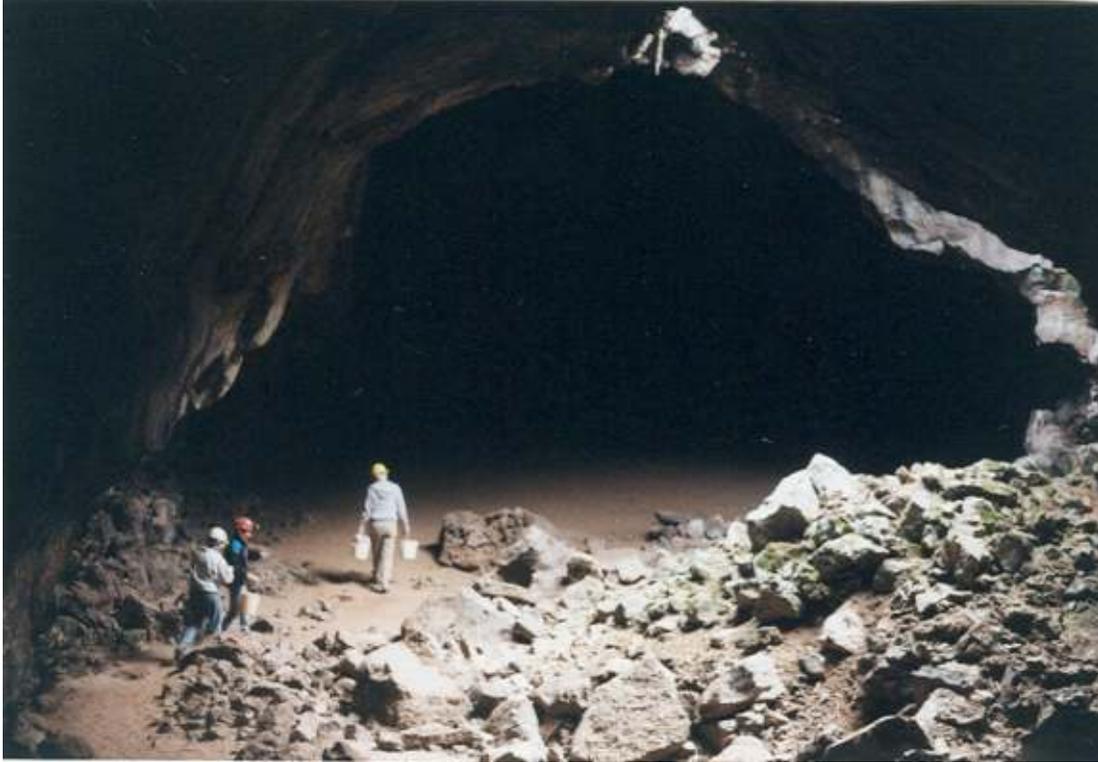
Arley tried using a small blow torch to bum off some offensive graffiti. However, either the heat was too low or the rock too porous, as the paint seemed to resist the heat. Deep in the dark section of Pluto's Cave we came across hibernating bats. Most of these were tucked away in odd corners which could be avoided in some cases. Back outside when we combined all our buckets of trash, the total amount removed was impressive.

We took a lunch break in the warm sunshine at the picnic table in the cave parking area. Some left after lunch, but others moved over to Sand Cave. There we dealt with the vertical entrance using an extension ladder. Jim fussed as we went up and down the ladder without a belay. At least we wore helmets. We cleaned up the entrance sinkhole, which always seems to attract a certain amount of new refuse from year to year.

The bags of trash were piled into Neil's truck and everyone took off. So ended another clean up trip. Total volunteer hours were estimated at about 50 hours. Thanks to all those who took the time and trouble to help out in this effort. The caves benefit, and it helps caver relations with the land managers. **BB**



Sand Cave clean-up crew. Left: Bill Kenney. Right: Melanie Jackson. Middle: identity not attempted.
Photo 2-15-03 by B. Broeckel.



Roger Brown hauls two buckets of trash out of Pluto's Cave on 2-19-05. Photo by Bill Broeckel.



Lunch break at Pluto's Cave parking lot. From right: Bill Kenney, Cheryl Kenney, Russ Yoder, Melanie Jackson, Liz Wolff (seated), Neils Smith, Paula brown, Roger Brown. Photo 2-19-05 by BB.

NEW SPECIES – SCOTT BAR SALAMANDER

The following article is REPRINTED with kind permission from the author, Joseph Vaile, and the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center. It first appeared in the organization's journal, K.S Wild News, Summer 2005, pp. 3-4. The Center "works to protect and restore the outstanding biological diversity" in our local area. They are known as KS Wild for short, and their motto is to "keep the K.S wild."

Secrets of the Klamath-Siskiyou

New species highlights the biological riches of the region

by Joseph Vaile

Chatting with my father is always insightful. At 77 he has been around the block a few times and has much to teach me. In the same way, the ancient Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains have much to reveal, and a hidden secret was unlocked just this spring.

Researchers working in northern California discovered a new species, one that lived in the Klamath-Siskiyou for several million years. The newly discovered critter, called the Scott Bar salamander (*Plethodon asupak*), is closely related to the Siskiyou Mountains salamander (*Plethodon stormi*).

One reason why new species can still be discovered in the Klamath-Siskiyou has to do with geology. The Klamath and Siskiyou Mountain Ranges are some of the oldest in North America. The rock has been here for over 200 million years. This age, and the fact that the rugged mountains guarded the area from ice-age glaciers, means that evolution has been unimpeded for a very long time and biological diversity is off the charts. More secrets could be hiding in the ripples and folds of these primeval mountains.

The newly discovered Scott Bar salamander lives in rocky slopes. Because it is lungless, it must breathe through its skin. The moist, mossy covered talus (rock fields) and rock outcroppings where it was discovered are usually near streams or support a dense tree canopy helping to conserve moisture and humidity.

When it is too hot or cold, or too dry, the salamanders must keep moist so they bury themselves in the rock fields. Talus slopes must have enough space between rocks to allow the salamanders to move toward



The Siskiyou Mountains and Scott Bar salamanders are rare species that only exist in the Klamath-Siskiyou.

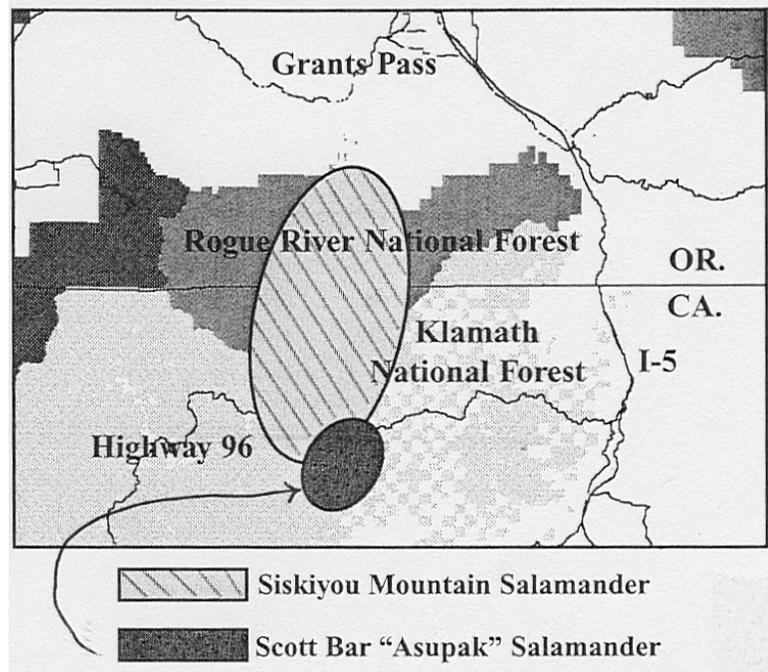
moist, mild conditions deep in the earth. During wet weather, salamanders come to the surface and can be found under bark, limbs or logs on the forest floor.

KS Wild petitioned the Siskiyou Mountains salamander and any distinct populations (including those that now represent this new species) for listing under the Endangered Species Act in June of last year. The Bush administration missed the one-year requirement for responding to the petition. KS Wild may be forced to petition a federal court to protect these two species. These salamanders are two of the rarest species in the northwest, because of limited range and low numbers. These qualities along with very specific habitat specialization make them extremely vulnerable to threats like logging.

The Shasta Indian name for the region known as Scott Bar is asupak, the name given to the new species. The Karuk Tribe, which still lives in the area, view salamanders as water purifiers and omens of good luck.

More great stories might still be hidden in the ancient rock of the Klamath-Siskiyou region. Just like when I am listening to the wisdom of my father, we need to be patient and listen carefully so we can learn from these wise mountains.

General Range for Siskiyou Mountain and Scott Bar Salamanders



CASTAWAY CAVE

By Bighorn Broeckel

Centrifugal, as in centrifugal force, is a word invented by Sir Isaac Newton which literally means "to flee the middle" or to be a fugitive from the center. Centrifugal force is the tendency for something to move away from its center of rotation, and it is caused by inertia.

Last time we had an article about Shebas Secret Cave, and it was mentioned that Jim Wolff and I found a new cave that wasn't named yet. The reason why it wasn't noticed before is because it was away from the main trench and cave system, in this case, the King Solomon Sequence.

Well, the other day my son Benj and I went out to look at used cars in Redding, and stopped by to map this new Shasta County lava tube on our way home. It wasn't much of a cave. As it turns out, we were able to complete the survey with a single 43 foot shot. Crawling in and out of the cave, taking

measurements, and doing the sketch took all of about 5 minutes.

The azimuth to the landmark tree in the Long Island Sinkhole was 249 degrees. So why is that important? Well, just down flow from the Long Island Sinkhole, the main trend takes a big turn to the left. Look at the map in the last issue to see the bend. The new cave is found thrown off from the sudden turn, as if by centrifugal force. We named it Castaway Cave, and we have an idea for lava cave ridgewalkers.

PRINCIPLE: WHEN THE MAIN TRENCH TURNS, LOOK OUTWARD FOR CASTAWAYS

Sometimes the outriggers and cast offs from the main trenches are prettier caves. The trench caves tend to be the big uglies (BUCs) while the cute little ones (CLCs) might be off to the sides. Castaway is in that second category, although I prefer my CLCs to be longer-limbed, say in the 100~200 foot range, at least. More lengthy CLCs

in Siskiyou County would include Looping Roote, Green Bottle, Psychology, and even the mighty miler, Catacombs.

The only entrance to Castaway Cave is low, measuring 1 foot high and 9 feet wide. Seven feet into the cave, the small slope of entrance breakdown ends and the passage continues on up flow with almost perfectly intact original surfaces. The floor is wavy and varied in texture, and nearly fills the entire passage. The passage height diminishes from 3 feet to 2 feet, and finally 1 foot up near the end of the cave. Here the floor reaches the ceiling and definitively ends the cave, 43 feet from the entrance, which is still visible through all the slight convolutions of the CLC.

This is surveyed lava cave #112 for Shasta County. On this project, all the cave has to do is go 30 feet to be noted and dignified with a name and a map. So far it looks like the CLCs are going to outnumber the BUCs. **BB**



Jim Wolff at the entrance to Castaway Cave, shortly after discovery. Photo on 6-7-05 by Bill Broeckel. Sorry about the weird angle. The excitement of the moment, you know...

Castaway Cave

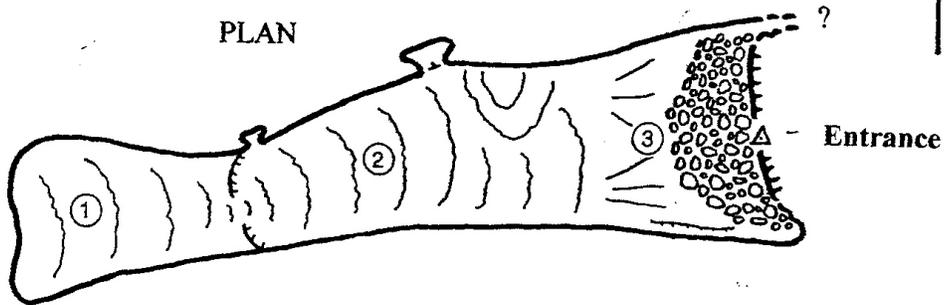
SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

LENGTH 43 feet DEPTH 4 feet

Nm

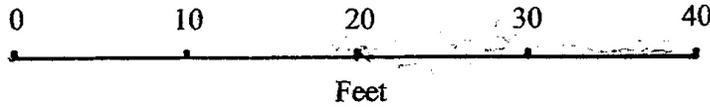
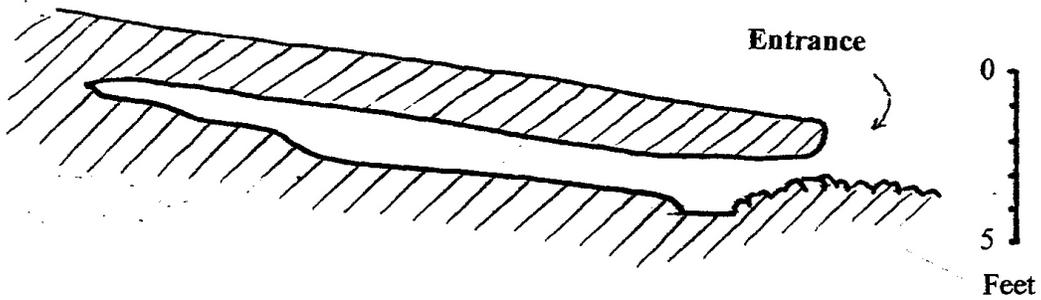


PLAN



PROFILE

Vertical exaggregation x2



Tape and instrument survey: August 16, 2005
Ben Broeckel and Bill Broeckel, Shasta Area Grotto
National Speleological Society for Lassen National Forest
Cartography/Copyright: Bill 'Bighorn' Broeckel © 2005

Map: Castaway Cave

The Western Region of the National Speleological Society presents...

Wilderness First Aid Training

from the National Outdoor Leadership School and the Wilderness Medicine Institute

With the cooperation and assistance of:

Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park
and the Executive Board of the Western Region



October 1 - 2, 2005

Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park

Three Rivers, California - Buckeye Campground

When 9-1-1 is not an option, the rules change...

While safety is always first, the potential for emergency medical attention is ever-present in cave exploration and mountaineering. If called to the task, are you ready to handle a medical emergency on a cave trip? If you plan to spend time in the backcountry - above ground or under it - you need to be prepared! Fast-paced and hands-on, this intensive two-day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel and work in the outdoors.

Led by certified instructors from the Wilderness Medicine Institute, this course is pre-approved by such organizations as the American Camping Association, the United States Forest Service, and other governmental agencies. If you hold a current WFR certification, you can use this course to recertify. Approved recertification programs include WMI, WMA, SOLO or WPT.

Registration is Limited!

There are only 30 spaces available in this weekend seminar and we expect it to sell out quickly! The course is open to all cavers in the Western Region and employees of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park.

The Wilderness Medicine Institute

For 15 years the Wilderness Medicine Institute has defined the standards in wilderness medicine training. Offering a wide range of course and certification opportunities, the WMI has trained more than 40,000 students. Affiliated with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), WMI's courses will challenge your decision making skills. You should expect this course to be rigorous and intensive.

WMI instructors get their start as professional outdoor educators, urban EMS providers, remote researchers and military special operators. Instructors for this seminar will be fully certified and provided by the Wilderness Medicine Institute.

WMI's curriculum is evidence based. They focus on wilderness medicine practices and protocols supported by a physician-based medical advisory panel and disseminated by their curriculum director.



Sequoia & Kings-Canyon National Parks

These parks are home to giants: immense mountains, deep canyons, and huge trees. Thanks to their huge elevational range, 1,500' to 14,491', these parks protect stunningly diverse habitats. The Generals Highway climbs over 5000 feet from chaparral and oak-studded foothills to the awe-inspiring sequoia groves. From there, trails lead to the high-alpine wilderness which makes up most of these parks. Beneath the surface lie over 200 fascinating caverns.

Although there are no plans for recreational activities outside of the seminar, endless opportunities exist for registrants not wishing to participate in the Wilderness First Aid seminar. Registration is required for all persons at the campground. If you wish to join us but do not plan to participate in the seminar, please choose the "non-student" category on the registration form.

Buckeye Campground & Food Arrangements

The National Park Service has agreed to provide Buckeye Campground to participants in this seminar. Located in the foothills along the middle fork of the Kaweah River, Buckeye will be a familiar location to many cavers in the region. This developed site offers multiple camp sites and potable water. Camping gear is your own responsibility. The actual seminar will be held in the park's recreation hall - about a 20-minute drive from the campground. Large campers are not advised in the campground and may need to be located at another area of the park. Camping fees are included in your registration, but park entrance fees of \$10 per car must be paid upon arrival at the entrance gate. Breakfast and lunch is provided as part of the student registration package. Saturday dinner is your own responsibility. Plans are being made to have a potluck dinner. Contact Mark Scott for more information. Many hotels are available in Three Rivers for those not wishing to stay at the campground.

www.caves.org/region/western/

Saturday, October 1		Sunday, October 2	
.5 hour	Introductions	1 hour	Athletic Injuries
2.75 hours	Patient Assessment System Initial Assessment, Focused History and Patient Exam, Documentation	1 hour	Fractures
		.75 hour	Traction Splinting
		.5 hour	Dislocations
.25 hour	----- Break -----	.25 hour	----- Break -----
.5 hour	Spinal Cord Injury Management	.5 hour	Heat Injuries
1 hour	----- Lunch -----	1 hour	----- Lunch -----
1 hour	Spinal Cord Injury Management	1.25 hours	Cold Injuries
.5 hour	Head Injuries	.25 hour	Lightning
.75 hour	Shock and Bleeding	.25 hour	----- Break -----
.25 hour	----- Break -----	.5 hour	Anaphylaxis
1.5 hour	Wilderness Wound Management	.5 hour	Altitude Illness
		.5 hour	The Unconscious Patient
		.5 hour	Acute Abdomen
		.25 hour	Wilderness First Aid Kits

Contacts

Event Coordinator:

Mark Scott
mark@deepbrews.com
(415) 452-2845

Registration:

Dan Snyder
daniel@snyder-haye.com
(831) 421-0430

Sessions & Curriculum Information:

<http://www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/wildfirstaid.shtml>

Additional Registration Forms:

<http://www.caves.org/region/western/wmi>



Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are an integral part of the Sierra ecosystem and one of the many wildlife species the National Park Service is mandated to protect. Black bears range throughout the parks - where they forage for natural foods - digging up roots in meadows, ripping apart logs, and peering into tree cavities for food.

Buckeye Campground may be visited by black bears. If these usually shy animals learn to seek human food, they may damage cars, coolers, and tents. If a bear gets very destructive, it must be killed. To prevent this, follow requirements to store your food properly during the seminar. Two bear-proof food-storage boxes are provided at each campsite: one is 47" long x 17" deep x 17-3/4" high, the other is 47-3/4" long x 34" deep x 22" high. There are several additional boxes for sites to share.

Wilderness First Aid Registration

October 1-2, 2005 - Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park

Please type or print legibly - Use one form per person - Detach and mail with registration payment.

Name: _____ Natl. Speleological Society #: _____

Address: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Day phone: (____) _____ Evening phone: (____) _____ Mobile/pager: (____) _____

Are you recertifying a card? _____ (If yes, please bring card with you) Card type: _____

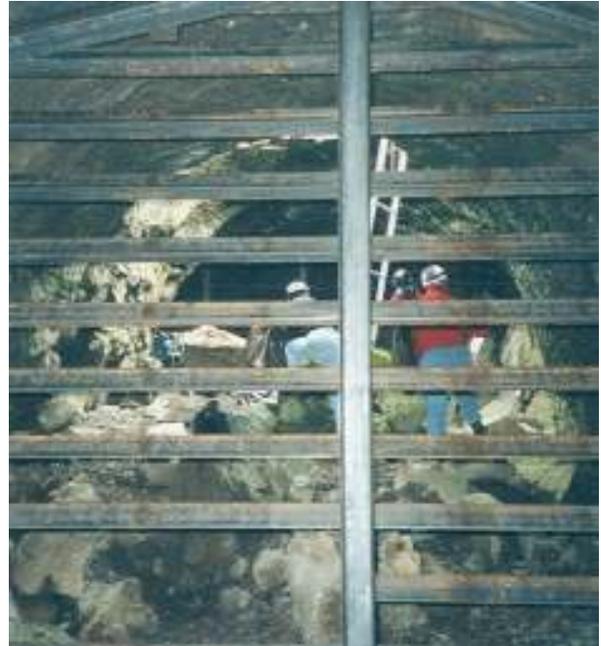
Grotto Affiliation: _____ Dietary or health considerations: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Please mail registration form and your check or money order payable to:
Western Region NSS
Attn: NOLS 2005
213 Elm Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 421-0430

Student Registration - includes camping, meal plan and courses:	\$142.00	
Non-Student Participant - includes camping only:	\$18.00	
Western Region Membership (optional):	\$10.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		

This seminar is expected to sell out quickly! Registrations are accepted as they arrive. Extra registrants will be wait-listed. There are only 30 spaces available!



Ray Miller opens gate to Sand Cave. 2-15-03

SAG RAG

2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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TO:



Cheryl Kenney picks up bits of trash in Sand Cave. 2-15-03