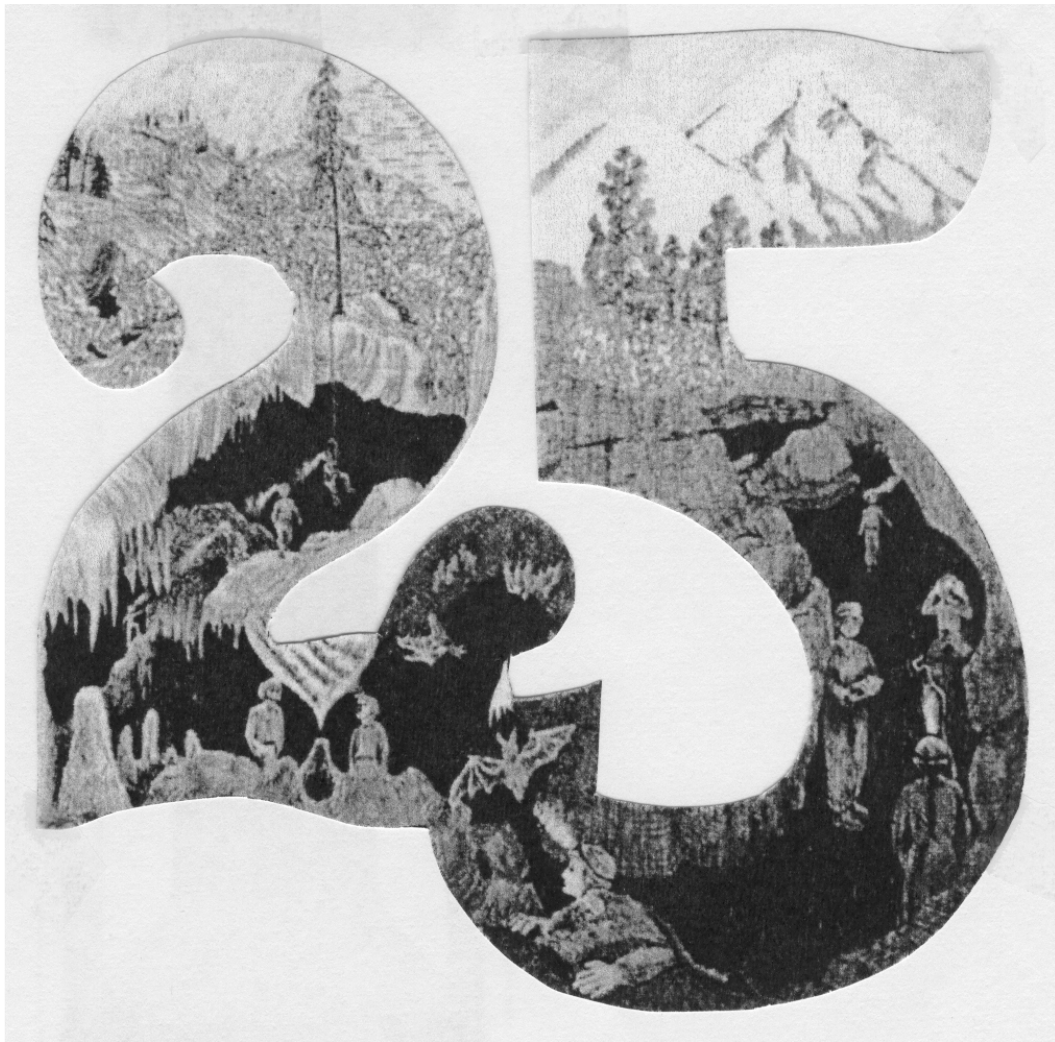


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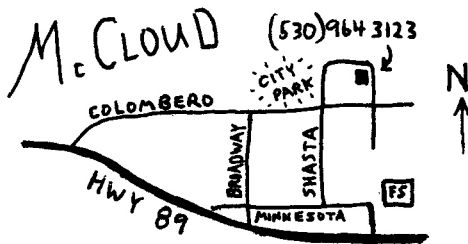


The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription.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

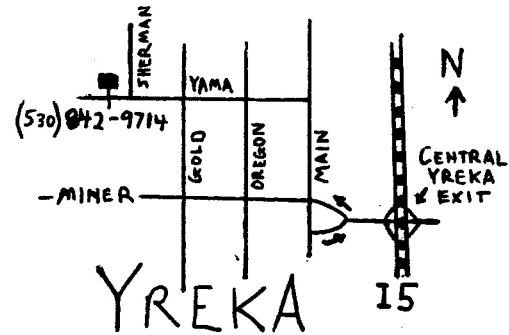
CAVERS CALENDAR 2007

Nov 16	SAG meeting at Wolff's in McCloud 7:30 pm.
Dec 21	SAG meeting at Melanie's in Yreka 7:30 pm (tentative so call ahead).
Jan 18	SAG meeting at Broeckel's in Yreka (tentative so check again).
Feb 15-18	SAG weekend meeting at Wolff's in McCloud (more details later).
Mar 21	SAG meeting at Hobsons in Redding 7:30 pm (project cave trip).

MAPS TO THE MEETINGS



NOVEMBER – McCLOUD



DECEMBER – YREKA

SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bill Broeckel

Here is the 25th silver anniversary issue of the SAG RAG, celebrating 25 years of grotto survival. Liz Wolff reports on our reunion weekend out at Lava Beds, while Bighorn elaborates on the centerpiece of that weekend, a graffiti removal project. The grotto made a "breakthrough" in lava cave restoration techniques. This also seemed like a good time to get this 1,000 Siskiyou caves nonsense-dispensed with. It turns out we were past that a long time ago. Liz Wolff comes through with details on another one of those 1,000+ caves, Pennyroyal Pit, map included. Jim Wolff updates progress made in Dumb Luck Cave with the help of his stalwart companions Dave Smith and Wayne Cedidla. Next issue look for a blockbuster Siskiyou County cave round-up and in Jan-Feb, summary of a little quieter caving season for the KMCTF this year. **BB**

COVER EXPLANATION

This cover illustration was lifted off one of the most recent grotto T-shirts, depicting original art work by our very own cave artist (Liz Wolff). The master image is much sharper than what my poor machines can copy off the shirt, but you can see it. **BB**

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SHASTA AREA GROTTTO

The Shasta Area Grotto is a conservation minded organization devoted to the protection and study of caves and their contents.

SISKIYOU ONE THOUSAND

By Bighorn Broeckel

Shane Fryer, cave resource specialist at Lava Beds National Monument, recently announced that an intense, systematic ridgewalking season (summer '06) added close to two hundred new caves. Note also that Shane wrote in a 12 meter minimum into the project parameters. Just like that, without a lot of hoopla or fanfare, Siskiyou County indeed now has over 1,000 known caves. We were about there anyway, but this boost from Lava Beds puts us way over the top.

The current total number from Lava Beds is over 700. The other 300+ caves are accounted from those which are outside the National Monument, but still within the bounds of Siskiyou County. About 177 of these are solutional caves found in the metamorphic uplifts to the west. More caves formed in various volcanic settings to the east number about 351. That all adds up to a current county-wide total of 1228 caves.

The entities deserving credit for bringing all this underground to light are, of course, Lava Beds, augmented over the last 20 years or so by the Cave Research Foundation. Klamath Mountains Conservation Taskforce, Shasta Area Grotto, San Francisco Bay Chapter, Oregon Grotto, and the United States Geological Service have also made major contributions. The number represents a lot of effort over many years and by many a happy caver. So now you know, stay tuned for even more caves.

BB

T-SHIRT SALES

Even if you missed the 25th reunion, you can still obtain one of the fine grotto T-shirts. These are sage green in color, and feature original art on the front illustrating lava and limestone caving in the Shasta Area within the numerals "25". Blue lettering says:

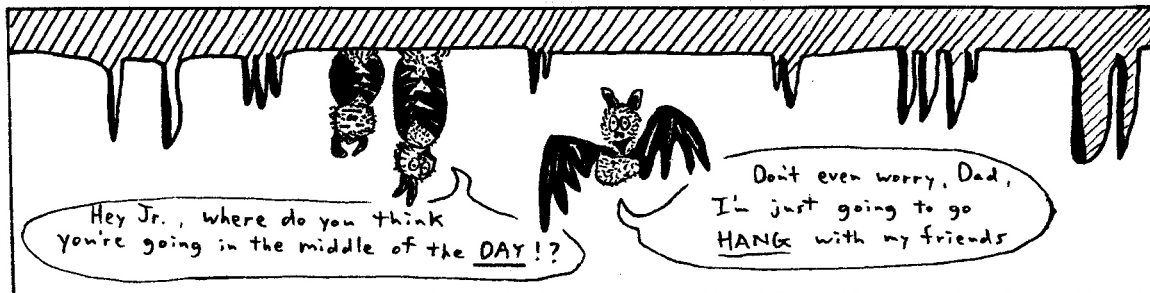
"SHASTA AREA GROTTTO 1982 - 2007 (25) YEARS OF CAVE EXPLORATION"

These come in a rather generous men's size large, and there are a few extra large still left. The cost is \$10, plus \$2 for postage and handling. If you arrange with Liz Wolff, you could probably pick up a shirt at a grotto meeting for a straight \$10. If you would like one of these very soft, comfortable, handsome, historical, collectors-item grotto T-shirts, please contact Liz Wolff at POB 865, McCloud CA 96057 or by phone at (530) 964-3123.

BB

BAT JOKES

Bighorn Bill



AUGUST SAG MEETING Minutes from Aug. 16th, 2007 SAG meeting at Jim & Liz Wolff's house in McCloud. The meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm and adjourned at 9:27 pm by Chairman Liz Wolff. Those attending were members Jim and Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Russ Yoder, and Neils Smith. The 7-22-07 minutes were read by Steve Hobson and approved as read. Treasurer's Report: Bill B. submitted a bill for postage, \$16.40 paid from petty cash. Received \$10.00 from Neils S. for an extra T-shirt, added to petty cash. \$418.64 + \$111.37 petty cash = \$530.01 Total worth of SAG. SAG RAG Report: Bill wanted to know if everyone was getting the RAG OK The next one will be with Wayne C. performing acrobatic rappelling. Bill needs help with the photos. Jim W. volunteered. The issue will have stuff about the June campout.

Correspondence: Lava Beds sent out an update on the Management Plan. They are at the public comments stage. The Day of the Bat was so successful they want to do it again, something called Life in the Dark next spring. Ray will head this up. Julie Donnelly-Nolan expressed interest in Siskiyou County lava flows and Liz W. gave her some cave info. Bill B. has been talking to Jim W. about the fair

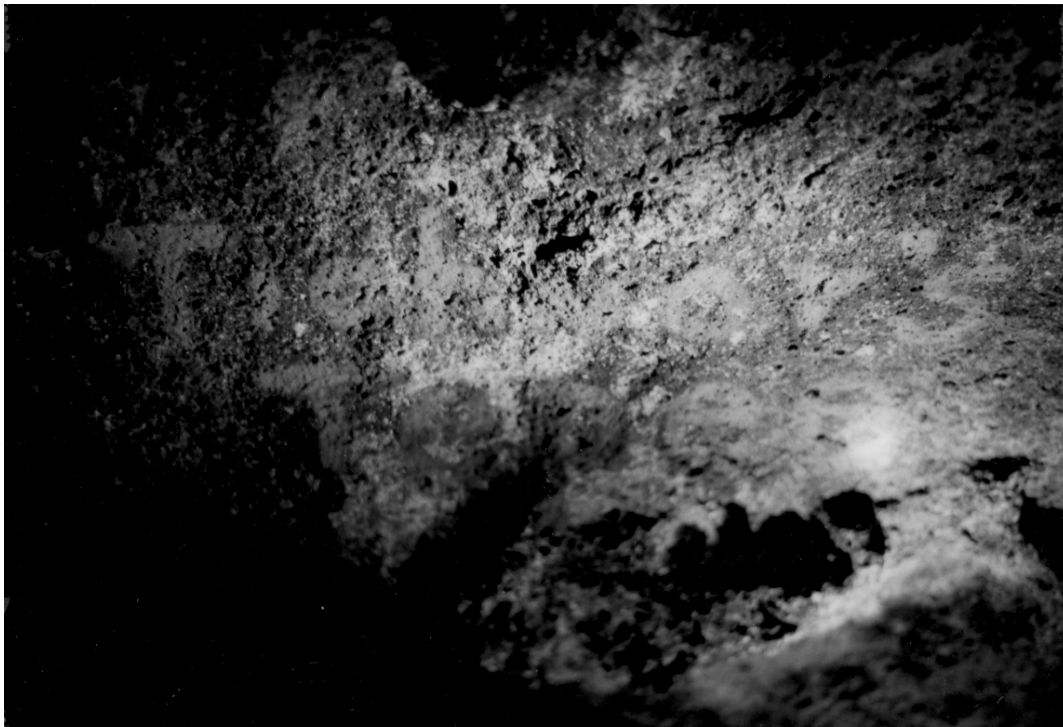
Old Business: Only one child showed up for the slide show on Aug. 2. They want to reschedule for Sept. Liz W. made a great coloring book. No new news on the raising of the dam on Shasta Lake. Bill B. reviewed an old Sierra Nevada Forest Plan. It says nothing about caves. Julie D-N. sent around a geophysical research document about lava flows. T-shirts are for sale, Liz W. has Reg, Large, and XL. Neils gets one. Jim W. has old cave registers, Bill B. will put it in archives.

New Business: Liz W. has been updating the data base and maps, She has a listing of them. Liz W. gave Bill B. a listing of cave names, lengths, and locations. The grotto web site needs a new webmaster. Jim W. will look into it. Bill B. checked out a cave along a new trail. He surveyed it at about 200 feet and it has some nice stuff in it. Tomorrow he will meet with the Forest Service with nomination paperwork, photos, and a finished map. Jim W. has a finished copy of the interview he conducted with Dave Jot about Jot Deans Ice Cave. Neils Smith is getting maps on a new cave area. The Ranger said there are a lot of caves out there, but they are not giving out locations. He will contact them further, and this is a possible future project proposal. Meetings: Sept. 21 at Vern and Linda Cliff's in Big Bar, and Oct. 17 at Dick LaForge's in Eureka.

Trip Reports: Jim W., Dave S., and Wayne C. still working on the Dumb Luck dig, Dave & Wayne also went to Adams Homestead Cave. Bill B. found a J.D. Howard sign inside a spattercone (Tichnor's Tepee). Jim & Liz W. refound Penny Royal Pit and mapped it. Liz W. and family went to Lava Beds twice and went to a bunch of caves. Brad Rust and Steve H: went to the Marijuana Dig up by Ancient Palace Cave, but did not find anything exciting. Russ Y. did not find anything exciting either, but he lies.

Shasta Area Grotto Secretary/Treasurer – Steve Hobson

SH



Obscure possible J.D. Howard sign on 7-31-07. Photo: B. Broeckel.

SEPTEMBER SAG MEETING Minutes from Sep. 21st, 2007 SAG meeting at Vern & Linda Clift's home in Big Bar. The meeting was called to order at 8:55 pm and adjourned at 9:55 pm by Chairman Liz Wolff. Those attending were members Vern & Linda Clift, Jim and Liz Wolff, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Dick & Kathy LaForge, and Dave Smith. No minutes, no Treasurer's Report, and no Website Report. SAG RAG Report: Bill B. has enough material for the next RAG.

Correspondence: Announcement about the National Public Lands Day event at Oregon Caves Sept. 29. Last call for a NOLS wilderness first aid training at Sequoia NP Sept. 29-30. Western Regional meeting Oct. 26-28 at Pinnacles Natl. Mon. Joe Molter sent two early SAG documents: a Jan. 1982 meeting agenda, and an "Explorer's Guide to Samwel Cave" from our first official cave trip. Joel Despain wrote asking for info on some Siskiyou County caves for an upcoming book edited by Dr. Art Palmer.

Old Business: Jim W. still has many reunion T-shirts for sale, \$10 size large and a few XL.

New Business: We should enter our T-shirt, badge, and grotto patch in the symbolic devices section at the 2008 NSS Convention. Vern C. has a dirty job for the TV show "Dirty Jobs": mapping a cave, but find a good, tight, muddy one. Bill B. went over the data base list for one area of Siskiyou County and added a few caves. The totals for this one area were 226 caves, 208 surveyed for a combined length of 28.6 miles. Linda C. reports that the new "owner" of Del Loma Cave would like to see the cave gated to prevent cave vandalism and reduce rock fall damage to his motel buildings located directly below. The Forest Service actually "owns" the cave, so it would have to be proposed to them.

Trip Reports: Dick L. went to Wind Cave as part of a bike trip in South Dakota. He toured the lower levels. He also went to the Silent Splendor section of the Cave of the Winds in Colorado. Labor Day weekend Bill B. went to Skunk Hollow and Upstairs-Downstairs Caves with a group of Becky B's college friends. He also surveyed Tag 04 Caves with Larry McTigue. Bill & Judy Broeckel explored a little further in Grumblin' Cave. Liz W. did two classroom presentations on caves at Etna and Dunsmuir Elementary Schools. Ray Miller did a presentation on bats at Etna but not Dunsmuir. Liz W. and Bill B. took Etna Elementary School 5th graders into Barnum Cave on Sept. 11. After the cave trip and the kids had left, they hiked out to Beetle Cave and GPS'd the entrance. Liz W. and Russ Yoder found and mapped Spiderweb Crawl after adding 53 feet to Dragon Cave on Aug. 18th.

Acting Shasta Area Grotto Secretary/Treasurer – Jim Wolff

JW



Pacific Union College students in Skunk Hollow Cave 9-2-07. Photo: B. Broeckel.

SAG 25 year Reunion at Lava Beds National Monument By Liz Wolff

Eighteen cavers attended SAG's 25 year reunion at Lava Beds National Monument July 20-22, 2007. It began Friday afternoon when registration and the project we would be doing for the Lava Beds were set up; tons of food refrigerated, barbecues prepared, tools gathered and cameras readied for the project, slides and projector collected for the events of the coming weekend. In exchange for a work project we received free park entry, camping, and use of the new Research Center. Those in attendance were: charter members Joe Molter and Jim & Liz Wolff; past members Don Quinton and Matt Wolff and family: Jenn with Timothy, Joshua, Joy, and Anna Wolff; present members Bill Broeckel, Wayne Cedidla, Vern & Linda Clift, Steve Hobson, Brian Marshall, Dave Smith and Russ Yoder; and Park Service representative David Larson.

Saturday morning the group gathered, less Vern, Dave L, and Matt & family, to clean graffiti from the entrance area of Trench Bench Cave on the southern boundary of the monument. The lime-green graffiti had been applied either by brush or fingers making it relatively easy to remove. Hammers, wire brushes, an awl and chisels were the high tech tools, while fist-sized rocks were the preferred low-tech tools. The paint flaked off easily with a little rock bashing while the brushes got most of the rest of the paint. The awl and chisels were used to pick paint out of the vesicles in the rock. Most of the paint was on fairly smooth rock faces and none was on popcorn or other fragile surfaces. Thirteen quasi "Indian" drawings and smears of paint were removed. Photo documentation was done by Jim Wolff, Don Quinton and Bill Broeckel with a camera provided for the purpose by the Park Service.

Trench Bench was then explored except for the passages closed due to bats. It is a 30 foot tall canyon passage with prominent ledges, or benches, down one side on the passage walls. The floor is rubble or sand, and two "break-outs" into country rock (pre-lava flow rock) were found along the other wall. Historical graffiti, very faded blue paint inside the north-facing entrance of the cave, is located where some chalk lettering was washed off; there are initials and the date July 4, 1903.

Later, exploration was done in The Big Ice Cave on the north end of the trench. SAG signed into the register and went exploring, looking for a rumored back entrance. The Big Ice Cave is another canyon passage down flow from Trench Bench Cave. The entrance area slopes steeply down three levels to a floor of breakdown on the lowest level; a switch-back trail accesses it. The two upper levels can be reached by skirting along narrow ledges to rubble floored passages. While most of the cavers explored inside the cave, after lunch Russ and Liz went searching for Do Drop In Cave somewhere down the lava flow, which is the rumored back entrance. First we found a cluster of small holes blowing incredibly cold air in a trench further down flow than Do Drop In. A little judicious rock moving provided more cold air, but no entry. Later, this hole was connected by a handshake and a passed stick to the middle level of The Big Ice Cave. We eventually found Do Drop In and Russ dropped in to check for possible connection points. Connection was supposed to be through a tight crawl, and he found one that looked like someone had done it in the past. Do Drop In was visually connected through the tight crawl and across the top of a pit in The Big Ice Cave.

Then it was back to camp to prepare tri-tips and chicken for barbecuing. Following dinner the slide show was set up in Mushpot Cave for the evening's entertainment. Liz showed slides from the Gaping Holes Gang (pre-SAG) days and the cave trips following the first two meetings of the Shasta Area Grotto to Samwel and Potter Creek caves. Then more pics of historical firsts: cave conservation trip skiing, a coast meeting, Nevada trips, and more cave trips featuring past members. Bill showed slides from various caving areas as well as climbing in the Sierras and on Mt Shasta. While the show was in progress a family of tourists came and sat through the show. Following, they remarked how absolutely crazy cavers are, but we sure have pretty pictures. The bat decorated cake was cut and enjoyed. Sunday morning there was a brief grotto meeting, the RC cleaned, and then we dispersed to go caving. **LW**



Shasta Area Grotto 25th Reunion 7-22-07. Photo: J. Wolff. Shown left to right: Matt Wolff, Dave Smith, Jenny Wolff, Joshua Wolff, Anna Wolff, Steve Hobson, Joy Wolff, Liz Wolff, Don Quinton, Timothy Wolff, Brian Marshall, Linda Clift, Vern Clift, Joe Molter, Bill Broeckel, Russ Yoder, Jim Wolff (just set timer).

GRAFFITI REMOVAL FROM BASALT

by Bill Broeckel

So easy even a caver can do it.

At the SAG 25th Reunion out at Lava Beds, the grotto spontaneously improvised a solution to that tough old problem of how to best deal with offensive paint on lava rock. It happened on Saturday, July 21, 2007, and was pure serendipity. There are times when happy outcomes really do follow behind hearts of courage.

On a fine, sunny morning, the grotto set out in mass for our restoration assignment, a cave with bogus Indian art. The mood was optimistic and our hearts were full of courage to accomplish our task. Never mind the internet discussion group verdicts, that there was no good way to remove paint from lava. Some thought that detailing might be O.K., using a sort of expensive, professional-quality oil painting restoration methodology. Apparently this involves a palette of micro-solvents applied with tiny Q-tips, followed by an array of dental hygiene equipment and suction devices, wielded by highly trained archeology technicians in hazmat space suits backed up by mine shaft ventilation systems – something like that. The method we hit upon this particular Saturday was, well, a little more — primitive.

continued

We arrived at the site and identified about 13 individual panels of offensive graffiti. These were various forms of suns, snakes, zig zags, animals, anthromorphs, and funky triangular things. Some were obvious copies of genuine prehistoric art found elsewhere in the Monument. All 13 were done in the same florescent yellow-green paint. There were enough of them so that we could each have our own personal panel to work on. We spread out, chose panels, and started working. Our tools were things like little metal picks, knives, scrapers, and wire brushes.

The rock presented fracture planes of highly vesicular basalt, a dusty brown lava with many pores. The figures may have been finger-applied, perhaps with a latex paint. With the tools we could lift up little peelings of paint, whisking them away with the wire brushes. The wire brushes, however, would actually brighten up the remaining paint. The pores were also problematic. It was hard to get the paint out of those pores, and loose paint tended to collect in the little holes. It was tedious to work from pore to pore and we were doing a "pore" job. Progress was slow, results less than satisfying.

Then the serendipity happened.

One of our best grottobots grabbed a pointed rock, and started pounding his panel. In short order the entire painted area, pores and all, was pulverized to dust. The graffiti was gone, never to be seen again. Soon everyone picked up suitable rocks and started pounding away. For a while the scene resembled some ancient caveman workshop back at the dawning of the concept of tools. Everyone got into it.

Everyone, that is, except me. Being at least 2/3 stubborn fool, I was still pecking away with my pick and brush. The group indulged this for a time. Eventually one of my caver buddies, I think it was Brian, could stand it no longer. He intervened, brought his rock to bear, and a minute or two later my panel was gone like the others, the last one to disappear. I became a true believer. Yes, my friends, this simple low-tech method can really work wonders.

continued



Russ Yoder works on his panel 7-21-07. Photo: B. Broeckel.

Just think of the advantages. The cave itself provides the tools which are later left on site. All you need is regular cave gear, with the addition of eye protection. Low cost, easy preparation, rapid results, gratifying psychology... the list goes on. No new chemicals are added to the situation. No heavy equipment is needed. No blowers, sand blasters, water cannons, glass beads, or weird sediments. In our case, the pulverized paint ended up lost forever and virtually invisible in the thick cave dirt on the floor. However, I suppose it would be fairly easy to lay out a drop cloth if it was desirable to remove the paint from the cave entirely.

Our rock surfaces had a certain friability and color consistency that allowed us to easily crush a few millimeters down into the rock without really leaving a visible scar. Cosmetic results here were good. However, lava rock types and textures are so variable that there are some limitations to our method. For example, it would not be suitable for paint applied to remelt surfaces or lava speleothems. Patina or weathered rock might also prove problematic. Never-the-less, many areas with breakdown walls and fracture planes should be amenable to the method described, the simple SAG solution to the problem of graffiti on lava.

Lastly, here are a couple cautions. Don't smash your fingers. Don't destroy historical values. Close to one of our panels we noted some very old and faint lettering of a completely different color (blue). I think it said "FHR. July 4th, 03." We think this was over 100 years old and predated the arrival of even J.D. Howard to the Monument area. Many caves contain valuable historical clues like this, and they can be found by examining the walls closely with good lights. **BB**



SAG removing cave graffiti 7-21-07. Photo: B. Broeckel.

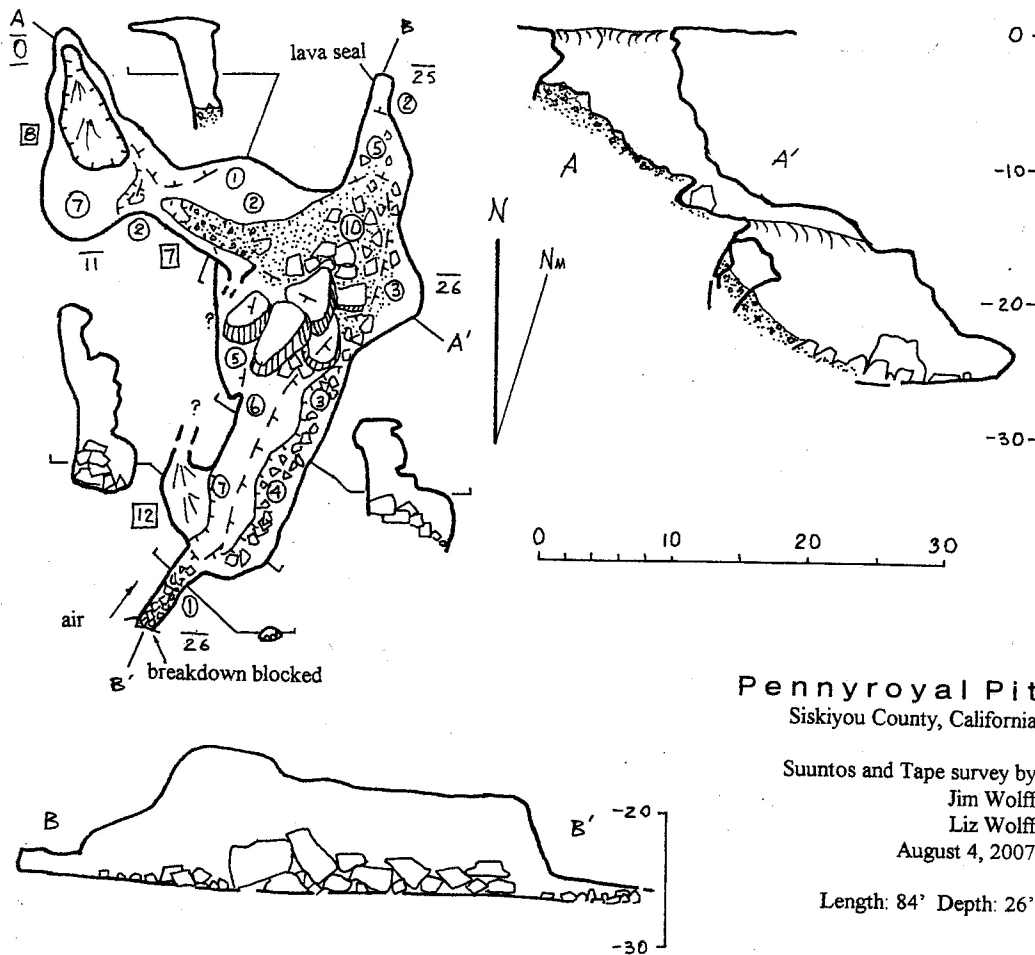
PENNYROYAL PIT By Liz Wolff

Pennyroyal Pit is a lava tube 84 feet long and 26 feet deep. The cave is located in a raised tongue of lava deeply buried in volcanic ash and pumice. Pennyroyal Pit was found in October 1979 by archaeologists doing a surface reconnaissance for cultural materials before timber was to be cut in the area. On August 4, 2007 Jim & Liz Wolff went out to relocate and map the cave. The lower cave is very wet and seasonally has a lot of ice, and was presumed to be a water source for Native Americans. Copious amounts of charcoal cover the floor of the lower cave.

The entrance pit is a four foot wide, eight foot long by ten foot deep opening flush with the level ground. It is a climbable pit. At the bottom is a small hole that drops vertically into a dirt, detritus, charcoal and rubble slope to the bottom of the cave. A wide ledge on the left side narrows the pitch. A narrow ledge on the right has a small tube heading south, which is unreachable without a rigid ladder.

At the bottom of the slope a small passage heads north to a lava seal in a small alcove, about 15 feet away. The south passage goes 30 feet. On the right wall, near vertically oriented laminations are exposed. The floor here is breakdown stacked about three feet deep. Under an overhang along the left side of the passage, original floor can be seen for most of its length. At the end of the walking passage a crawlway continues for 9 feet to where it is blocked with breakdown and strong air movement is felt. Also at the end of the walking passage, a near vertical lead goes up about 8 feet with a small passage heading north at the top.

LW



Map: Pennyroyal Pit Cave

IF IT WASN'T FOR DUMB LUCK...

By Jim Wolff

Dumb Luck Cave - Aug 7, 2007. Along on this dig trip, besides the usual supporter Dave Smith and myself, was another SAG member, Wayne Cedidla. So, at the cave entrance, we geared up, with me being the slowest as usual. I told them to tour the other parts of the cave, while I finished getting dressed. I'd join them soon. Once we were at the dig, Dave was going for it, and a tarp full of sand was ready to be hauled out of the passage. We had a rotating basis, where everyone had a chance at the head of the dig, just that SOME CERTAIN CAVERS spent the most time digging that day, and it wasn't me! I'm thankful for their help!

Anyway, the guy who was in the tube with the digger had not much to do except look at the ceiling a few inches away from his face, and hunker down from the wind and hope that the digger decides not to move backward, which is towards your helmet, where you're sure to get "tapped" by a boot. After moving sand uphill to the next guy in line, the passage became longer, literally. Upper body strength would have been a plus in this dig, yet I found myself lacking in that too. It's hard work either digging or hauling and disposing of the sand.

Reflections of the trip: – Dave's glasses falling apart while in the dig, where one lens ended up in my pack, and the other Wayne's at the end of the day. – Sand getting into the most interesting places. – At home after the trip, I plugged up my shower drain with mud off my body, contributing to me (finally) getting the drain fixed today (mumble, mumble). –Wayne wore a dust mask on this trip, and that may have been a good idea too, since the cave is drying out, where now a halo of dust given off by your light makes interesting beams on my hard-working helpers. –Black boogers in my hankie at the end of the day. –The ceiling in the dig was dry and ice water no longer drips straight into your warm ear canals. This time, however, sand got into your eyes and your ears. The best of both worlds? – Mud balls, like ball bearings, were created under the tarp, as the load of sand was dragged across the hard-packed floor of the passage. Apparently, the sand has some cohesiveness and sticks to everything.

Well, we got past the low ceiling point, and now need to lower the floor a bit to maneuver around our next obstacle, more rock with the sand. We made significant progress, and we have a plan for next time. I liked Wayne's idea of a haul cord on the tarp. The haul bucket idea was good too, but my prototype is small volume: Anyway, I need some help from Dave on the bonus cave, the bit about the trip to Adams Homestead Cave after we were done digging. **JW**

ADAMS HOMESTEAD CAVE

By Dave Smith

Here goes the Adams Homestead report. Adams Homestead Cave is a beeline from Dumb Luck, but not close by and not flowing the right direction. It was also a proper cave, 300 feet long with mostly 20' ceilings, much of the floor hard beach sand, and the rest climbable breakdown. The cave has a 4' pillar toward the back slotted with natural cats eye marbles and coins, plus a large chunk of onyx or maybe slag glass. Jim thinks the new age people brought these things in, but I wouldn't have thought they would part with cats eye marbles that easily...unless they didn't tell the kids.

Anyway, Wayne and I walked and climbed to the end, and went past one lava flow that dropped off a low rim and puddled and cooled on the floor, maybe the last bit of the last flow, looking like candle drippings would. Next trip we will drop into the upstream part of the tube, on the north side of the breakdown entrance. Since we will be coming from a morning of crawling Dumb Luck, we are planning on it also being a refined cave with a level floor under a high ceiling. **DS**



Research facility at Lava Beds 7-21-07. Photo: B. Broeckel.



Cave marker at Silver Cave, named long before SAG was born. Photo: B. Broeckel.

SAG RAG
 2916 Deer Mdws Rd
 Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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