

# sag rag

27:2 April 2008

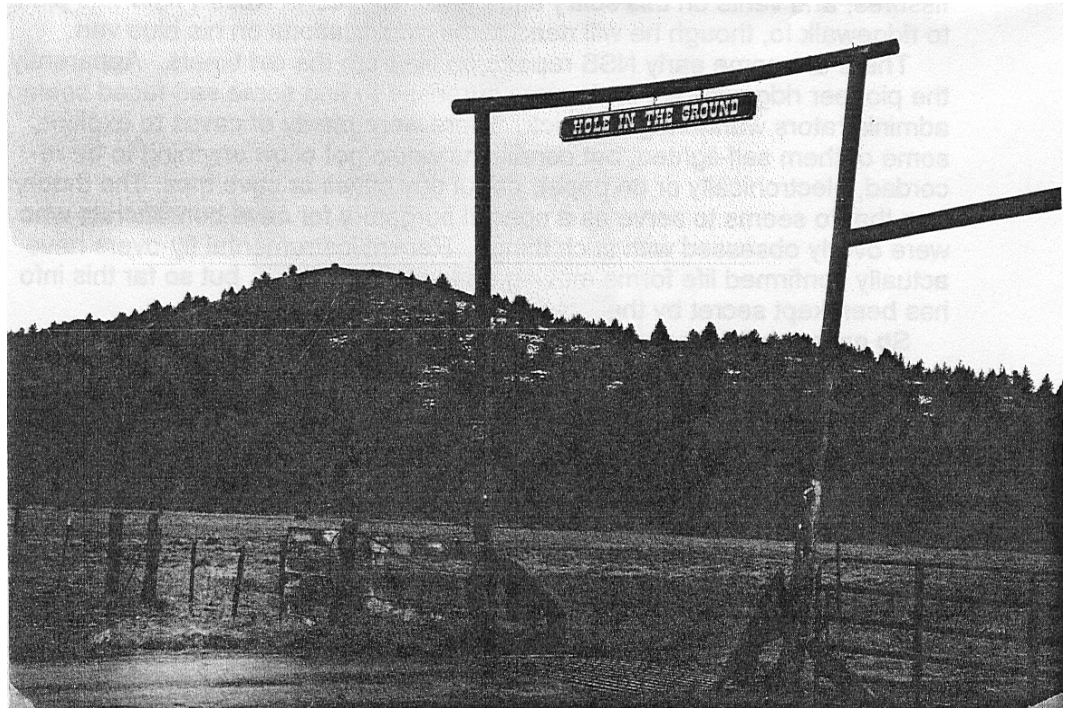
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This Siskiyou County location has been popular with many cow cavers.

**IO REPORT** By Bighorn Bill

*To any organization needing an IO Report, please feel free to use this one. Just put your group name on top, and send it in as needed.*

Io is one of the moons of Jupiter. Jupiter has a whole bunch of moons with cool names like Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa. Colorful Io was named for the sweet young mythological thing that caught Jupiter's eye (Jupiter and Zeus were the same guy). He turned her into a cow caver to hide her from his wife Hera. This didn't work out so well, and the resulting scandalous outcomes rival those of the Western Region.

It was a fellow named Galileo, with a very low NSS number, who first spotted Io on January 7, 1610. What a find! It turns out that this place is volcanology central for the whole Solar System. What the Hawaiian Islands are for the world, Io is for all the planets and moons. Io is a bit larger than our very own earth moon. Our poor little moon is just an old dead bone of a dust heap compared to Io, the most active volcanic body known to man.

A very dense iron core is coated with a silicate crust. The bright yellow and red pan pizza colors of Io are due to sulfurous compounds such as iron sulfide and sulfur dioxide frost. Over 400 active volcanoes release energy from the moon's interior, which is subjected to huge gravitational tides from the jovial giant planet Jupiter. Big eruptive plumes rise off the surface of Io, sprouting like mushrooms. Sulfur geysers also contribute to a thin gas atmosphere that probably wouldn't be very nice for breathing.

One of the volcanoes is over 52,000 feet high. Another, named Ra Patera, is a large shield volcano with long lava flows of multiple colors. Io has its own lexicon of geology terms. "Paterae" are large volcanic depressions, a "vallis" is a lava channel, and a "fluctus" is a lava flow. Some of these lava flows are more than 500 kilometers long. Undoubtedly, there are many lava tube caves, fissures, and vents on this sultry and seductive moon. Russ Yoder has plans to ridgewalk Io, though he will need some modifications on his blue van.

There are some early NSS reports on file from the old timers. Apparently, the pioneer ridgewalkers on Io were surprised to find some sad-faced speleo administrators wandering the flucti. There were plenty of caves to explore, some of them self-lighted, but conditions would not allow anything to be recorded electronically or on paper, about any caves or cave trips. The theory was that Io seems to serve as a special purgatory for cave bureaucrats who were overly obsessed with such things. Recent instrumental fly-overs have actually confirmed life forms moving on Ionian lava flows, but so far this info has been kept secret by the ... administrative bureaucrats!

So ends this IO Report. Old timers on Io? Well, I've learned to not underestimate the accomplishments of the founding cavers, and, many of the older cow cavers have actually been outstanding in the field. **BB**

**PAINTBRUSH CAVE** By Bighorn Bill

One day my wife Judy and I were out looking for Greeleys Pit, one of the lost caves of lore and legend, and didn't find it. It was a nice spring day, with flowers blooming, and we did find a good surface tube area. We picked out one of the easier looking ones and named it Paintbrush Cave. We decided to survey it on the spot. We got out the survey gear, and discovered that we forgot to bring the survey book. The only paper we had was the half roll of TP down in the bottom of the day pack. As you know, toilet paper is one of the two essentials carried on virtually every day hike, the other essential being water. Some folks also have to bring some food, and 7 other things.

Anyway, we flattened out the roll of cardboard from the inside of the TP, and we were able to record data and sketch on that. The trip was saved and we were able to bring home a new cave survey. This was the same trip on which the lava pulled off my left boot sole, no small problem out there on the sharp rocks. This was solved by running some of the bootlaces under the sole, then putting the sock on over the boot. The

sock lasted long enough to get us back to the car. So you can see how forgetful minds and equipment failures can both be the parents of improvisation.

Of course, Greeleys Pit is still out there somewhere ...

## BIGHORN'S CAVING TIPS

*Toilet paper can substitute for the cave survey notebook. Well, at least the cardboard can*

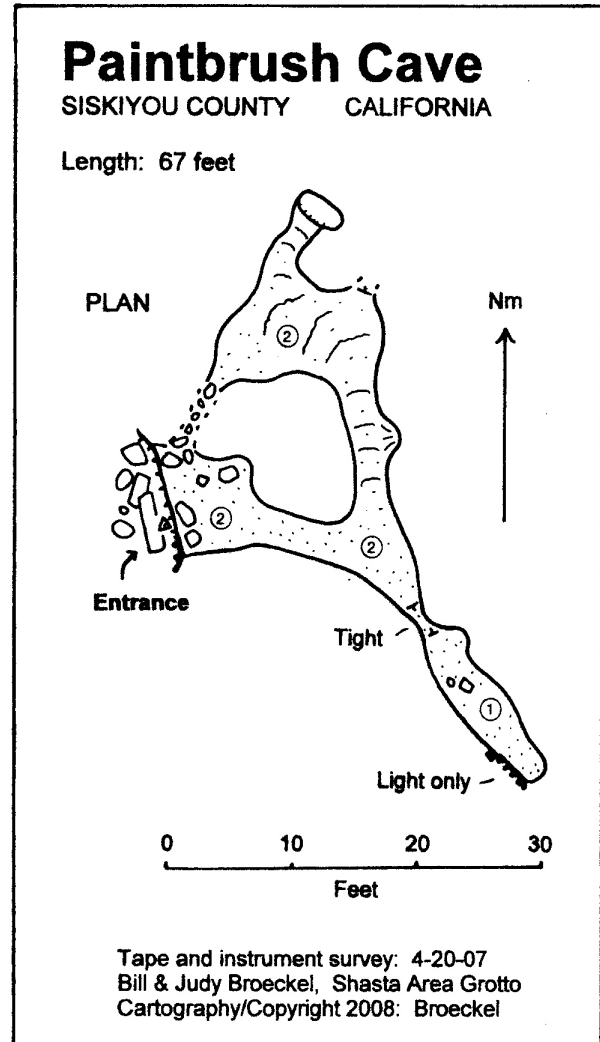
In theory, the 2-ply or 3-ply toilet paper might work well for multi-level caves, with GIS type overlays. But for practical purposes, the flimsy paper is way too fragile for the rigors of cave survey. It tends to disintegrate rapidly when wet or soiled, as according to design. It just turns into mush. For the same reasons, TP is also a poor substitute for measuring tapes or flagging ribbons.

However, the small cardboard tube inside the TP roll can serve as survey paper in a pinch. Here is how it works.

First, re-roll the toilet paper to retrieve the cardboard tube. We used to do this routinely for lightweight backpacking. Next, use your caving scissors to divide the tube length-wise.

If you didn't bring your caving scissors, or pocket knife, no problem, simply tear as straight as you can. Now flatten the tube out and – voila! – a nice sturdy parchment ready to receive survey notation.

OK, there are some downsides. You only get about one survey book page worth in capacity. There is no graph paper grid. The diagonal seams in the cardboard can be annoying. Later on, the cardboard becomes an odd scrap for storage. I would photocopy it for filing. Yes, this is only a sad substitute for a real rite-in-the-rain survey book, but it can none-the-less save your trip, provided the cave is suitably short and small. **BB**



Map: Paintbrush Cave

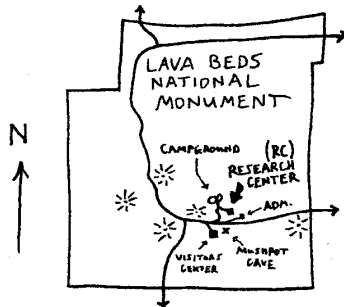
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription, 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 2008

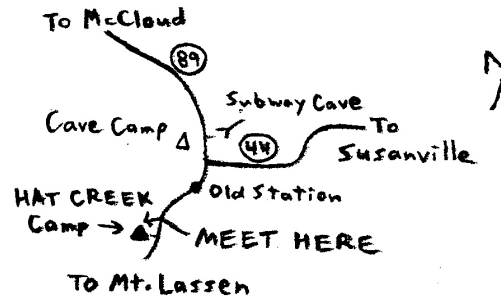
May 24-26	CRF at Lava Beds (510) 796-2283
May 24	NCA Regional at Crystal Ice Cave, Idaho.
May 31	SAG meeting (Sat.) at Lava Beds. (530) 964-3123
Jun 6-8	Public Lands Day caving in Oregon Desert. (541) 536-1900
Jun 28	SAG meeting (Sat.) at Hat Creek. (530) 842-3917
Jul 4-6	CRF at Lava Beds. (510) 796-2283
JUL 4-6	KMCTF Speleocamp. (530) 842-3917
Jul 25	SAG meeting at Melanie's home in Yreka. (530) 842-9714
Aug 11-15	NSS Convention in Lake City, Florida (352) 271-3203
Aug 22	SAG meeting (location to be announced)
Sep 13th	International Symposium on Volcanospeleology, Korea
Sep 26	SAG meeting (location to be announced) (Dave Smith's birthday)
Oct 24	SAG meeting (location to be announced) (Nominations)
Nov	No SAG meeting this month (wow! the world might stop turning)
Dec 5	SAG meeting (location to be announced)

## MAPS TO MEETINGS

May 31 – Lava Beds



June 28 – Hat Creek



## SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bill Broeckel

I hope the NSS can take a joke with that IO Report. Remember, this is the April issue, of the Cow Caver no less, material which I try to separate from the regular SAG RAG content. Paintbrush Cave is a real cave, by the way. About the regular content, this issue tries to highlight the SAG meeting week-end cave trips. These trips have been varied, interesting, well-attended, and popular. I think we have reports on all of this year's trips so far (Jan. - Apr.). The trips have covered project caving, conservation, lava, limestone, vertical, and horizontal. The basic concept is good. Come to a grotto meeting and go caving, all on the same weekend, just once a month. It strengthens the grotto, and puts cavers into caves. It leaves time in our busy lives for other priorities, including non-grotto caving. A quick look at the calendar shows some of the many such opportunities coming up for those who love to be underground. **BB**

**MINUTES FROM SAG MEETING** Jan. 25, 2008

**JAN. SAG MEETING** SAG meeting location: Bill and Judy Broeckel's, Yreka, CA – Jan. 25, 2008. Attendees: Members Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Melanie Jackson, Wayne Cedidla, Judy Broeckel, Bill Broeckel, Jim and Liz Wolff, and David and Anna Kuhnel. We met for dinner at the China Dragon. It was awful ....

Meeting called to order by Chairman Liz Wolff at 8:19 pm. The old minutes: the Dec. 2007 minutes were read by Steve Hobson. They were approved as corrected. Treasurer's report: \$418.64 Bank Statement, \$171.87 petty cash, total \$590.51. SAG RAG Report: Bill B. – will be on solution caves in Siskiyou County. He has a lot of info on Del Loma Cave. The MLG has a push to go to electronic mailing. It costs them about \$500 per issue printed. Bill submitted a bill for \$21.00 (paid from petty cash).

Correspondence There is a new proposed Lava Beds Management Plan. Bruce Rogers sent out an e-mail on the plan. Somebody wants cavers to fill out a survey. Internal Organization Reports are due. Peri Frantz sent us a pamphlet on the upcoming NCRC in Alabama. Neils' mom passed today. Mark Fritzke is going to be at the Feb. meeting. He needs his grotto tee shirt.

Old Business New officers: Chairman Jim Wolff, Vice Chairman Dave Smith, Sec/Treas. Steve Hobson, Editor Bill Broeckel, Everything Else Bill Broeckel, and Advisor to the Board Liz Wolff. Dues are due. Lava Beds Management Plan has four proposed plans: A, B, C, and D. They are talking about how to restore it to the way it was before and how much it would cost. The comments stage will be over on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. Museum – the grotto cannot afford a new T.V. for the museum. Wanda wants a caving display. Liz is thinking about a geologic display and is going to work on it.

New Business Bill Devereaux wants to have a meeting at the Lava Beds and even has cave trips planned. Nothing new on Shasta County solution caves. Bill B. is going to speak about caves at the Rotary Club. Meetings: Feb 16th (Sat) at the Wolff house in McCloud. Ski party and Cave Clean Up weekend. Mar 14th at Hobson's house in Redding. Project cave work weekend. Apr 25th. May 31st Sat. at Lava Beds?; June 27th, July 25th.

Trip Reports Dave, Jim and Wayne dug four more feet in Dumb Luck Cave. They are past the low spot and it looks like it turns to the right. They have dug over 25 feet. It is about 101 feet long now. They saw bobcat tracks outside in the snow. Bill B. went ridgewalking outside ...

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm. Shasta Area Grotto Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Hobson

**SH**

**MINUTES FROM SAG MEETING** Feb. 16, 2008

**FEB. SAG MEETING** SAG meeting location: Jim and Liz Wolff's, McCloud, CA – Feb. 16, 2008. Attendees: Members Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Robert Nixon, Wayne Cedidla, Neils Smith, Bill Broeckel, Jim and Liz Wolff, and Bill and Cheryl Kenney.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Wolff at 7:38pm. The January minutes were not read by Steve Hobson as his computer was dead and he could not print them. Treasurer's report: not available for the above reason. Dues are due. Robert Nixon paid \$6. SAG RAG Report: Pretty soon the issue on Siskiyou County solution caves. Bill B. is working on it. Web Site Report: The website is up and running. There is a security issue though. We want to be able to update the calendar, put on trip reports, photos, and a member's page. Robert said he will work on it, but has to fix the security issue first. Museum Report: Liz is working on the display. It is almost done.

Correspondence The 2008 NCRC class is in Virginia. Brad Rust is working on a Shasta-Trinity Cave map.

Old Business Jim K. had a jugular vein blockage fixed. He is home recovering. Neils' mom passed last month. The Barnum Cave gate has been vandalized. The bars were ground and bent with a jack. The road gate is not locked. Lava Beds Management Plan comments are now due by Feb. 28, 2008.

New Business Meetings: Mar 14th at Hobson's house in Redding. Project cave work weekend. Apr 25th at the Wolff Den in McCloud. May 31st at Lava Beds National Monument. Sat meeting. Jun 27th; July 25th. Wayne C. will look into a meeting/trip to Rippled Cave. Dave Smith will e-mail out a membership list. Jim will get the old newsletters to Bill B. He will put them in the library. Museum – Liz is working on the display. It has to be completed by April 1st. Cave clean-up – We took several bucket loads of trash out of Pluto's Cave. There was a large variety of stuff. We even collected firewood for Bill B. Someone has been drinking a lot of orange juice around Sand Cave, Wayne climbed down a cable ladder and fetched a whole lot of empties that had been thrown in the entrance, as well as a dead porcupine. Member status – Jim says that our Bylaws state that you have to belong to the NSS to be a Full Member and have voting rights. Some of our senior members do not belong to the NSS. It does not clarify who is responsible for submitting the IO annual report. Jim and Dave will look into some proposed changes to the Bylaws. IO annual report is due. Everyone has e-mail!

Trip Reports Steve Hobson and Brad Rust went to Conscious Cave and looked for the Crack of Doom Cave. There was about a foot of snow on the trail to some of the Shasta County solution caves. Bill B. has done some more ridgewalking outdoors. On Jan. 26, SAG worked on the resurvey of Mitertite Hall out at Lava Beds. Participants were Bill Devereaux, Dave Kuhnel, Anna Kuhnel, Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, Dave Smith, Steve Hobson, and Bill Broeckel. It was cold.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. Shasta Area Grotto Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Hobson

**SH**

### **MITERTITE HALL IN JANUARY** By Bill Broeckel and Liz Wolff

Last January 26, on the day after the grotto meeting, some grotto folks braved the very snowy conditions of 2008 and joined in with Liz Wolff's ongoing CRF cave survey projects out at Lava Beds. This time we were continuing work-up in Mitertite Hall, connecting survey loops around most of the columns and pillars (mitertites) that were in the cave: When I told my friends about my weekend, they thought I said "Mighty Tight Hall" and that it must have been a terrible time. However, this cave was not tight at all, and our main problem was the cold winter wind that was definitely wafting through the passages, some places more than others.

In the latest Cave Research Foundation (CRF) quarterly newsletter in May, 2008, Liz Wolff writes a nice piece on Mitertite Hall under the rather lengthy title "The On-going Saga of Lava Beds National Monument Surveying ... Lava Beds, Winter 2007-2008." Readers can refer there to get the whole story. Here is the excerpt from Liz Wolff that pertains to the grotto trip in January. **BB**

"The next trip occurred in January, the 26th, 2008. This trip consisted almost entirely of CRF/Shasta Area Grotto members: Bill Broeckel, Bill Devereaux, Steve Hobson, David Kuhnel, Dave Smith, Jim and Liz Wolff, and David's non-SAG daughter Anna Kuhnel. The two survey teams finished the in-cave survey in one day. The 'A' team: Liz, Jim, Steve, and Dave (Smith), took on the southeastern passages, smaller and a little more complex, connecting through – around the mitertites – to the 'B' team's survey in very large passage, at three points. The total footage came to 764.5 feet for both teams. This brought the total for the cave ,to 1,048.4 feet with one tight crawl through breakdown left to do. Bruce (Rogers) in his more svelte days claims to have actually done it. (Note: this breakdown crawl has good potential to actually connect Mitertite Hall with Labyrinth, and help Labyrinth exceed Mammoth Cave in length, and become the longest lava tube in California once again maybe for awhile.)

"While the afternoon's survey was going on, Anna had a chance to visit Crystal Ice Cave, normally closed to visitation, so she bailed on us and got back just as we returned to the parking area." **LW**

## FEBRUARY CAVE CLEAN-UP By Bill Broeckel

Ten grotto members participated in this year's cave clean-up at the usual sites on February 16, 2008. The following people gathered at the trailhead for Pluto's Cave: Steve Hobson, Neils Smith, Dave Smith, Wayne Cedidla, Jim Wolff, Bill Broeckel, Robert Nixon, Shakina Drew (with dogs Henry and Kodiak), and Bill & Cheryl Kenney. Shakina did not enter the cave, she is still recovering from some very serious injuries sustained in an auto accident. She patrolled on the surface, as did Neils Smith on his four wheeler. The remaining scalawags went on through most of the length of Pluto's Cave, picking up every bit of trash we could find and hauling it along in plastic buckets. We decided not to do the terminal crawl, promising each other that next year we would do it for sure ....

After lunch in the winter sun at the Pluto's Cave Trailhead picnic table, we moved over to the secondary site. We checked the gate inside Barnum Cave and noted that some of the horizontal bars over to the right had indeed been pried apart enough to allow a lean and determined person access to the cave. This will need to be repaired. The gate was installed by the Forest Service with caver cooperation to protect bats and reduce vandalism in this heavily impacted cave.

Over at Sand Cave, Wayne Cedidla descended the short drop into the entrance sinkhole on a cable ladder. A dead porcupine was hauled out, as well as some trash. The major part of the trash appeared this year in the form of a large number of Minute Maid orange juice containers. Wayne made it back out safely and there were no mishaps. Dinner and Grotto meeting followed at the Wolff's house in McCloud to celebrate our good day. All these cave clean-up activities are done in cooperation with the local Ranger District officer and the National Forest, who provide some material support. **BB**



Shasta Area Grotto members busy on Pluto's Cave clean-up trip – 2-16-08

## RED BEARD WON'T GROW By Bill Broeckel

The Hobsons put a lot of us up for the night after the Mar. 14th, 2008 grotto meeting. The next day, Steve H. rented a vessel for that special Shasta County speleo-activity known as: patio boat caving. Somehow Steve had figured out that he owed the grotto a boat trip. I wasn't going to argue about it.

There must have been a sailor's dozen of us getting on board that cool day in March. The weather was unsettled with breezes and banks of storm clouds from the north. Undeterred, we gathered up cave gear, extra clothes, and large containers of food and beverages (also provided by our generous host), and we all piled on to the boat. Anchors aweigh!

Here is the roll call for the hardy crew: Jim Wolff, Arley Kisling, Dave Smith, Wayne Cedidla, Melanie Jackson, Bill Broeckel, Brad Rust, James Newell and his sons Randy and Zack (midshipmites), and I think a girl cousin Dakota, and the courageous captain Steve Hobson at the helm. Soon we were cruising fjords of karst, with wondrous outcrops of limestone rocks to port, starboard, fore, and aft. Our exposure to the elements notwithstanding, we donned our warmest garments, spirits running high.

Our primary project-cave objective was off limits due to mothering bats, already active, so we had to think of something else cavicious to do. Hmm! Well, we thought of the hole in the ceiling at the end of Red Beard Cave. Loyal readers may remember that flowstone wall, too wet to climb, and the dismal trips across the lake in a rowboat during the full-out rainstorm. Yes, that was a memorable adventure. Cave survey length totaled 243 feet.

Forthwith, Captain Steve navigated us to shore where we docked and disembarked into just a few stray raindrops. Then after a long stretch of crashing through underbrush on steep, treacherous slopes, and swishing through patches of poison oak, we all entered the cave. Now, Red Beard Cave is relatively small, and not heavily traveled, so we loosely divided into several small interval groups. This seemed to work out pretty well.

There is an almost-vertical filter hole near the "end" of the cave, which sorted out the group some more. The younger set had no problems going up or down. This time the flowstone wall (mentioned above) was dry and perfectly climbable. Wayne and Brad checked it and couldn't pop out the top. I decided to try it, and found it snug at the top of the climb. There was a cupola up there where you could safely brace yourself over the 12 or 14 feet of exposure. Directly above that is the lead, just an elongated crack really, through which I had trouble even pushing my helmet. There was no way I was getting my body through there, though I gave it a couple tries to make sure. There is a larger space above the crack, but I couldn't tell much else. So much for the climbing lead at the end of Red Beard Cave.

Back outside, there were still stray raindrops. We beat our way back to the boat. No sooner did we get underway, than the heavens let loose with a deluge of heavy rain. Thankfully, we were all able to shelter under the roof of the patio boat. We broke out the refreshments and victuals, and I can personally report that Dakota can put together a mean cheese and bologna sandwich. I think everybody had a good time. The poison oak rashes didn't turn out too bad, although Melanie had some even though she was wearing a rainsuit. I think she is extra sensitive to the Rhus. Shasta County limestone caves are fine, but beware the curse of the Rhus, and the fierce bite of the Shasta cave spider. Yes, be warned my fellow shipmites. **BB**





Shasta Area Grotto cave trip 3-15-08

Reference: Broeckel, B. 2003. Red Beard Cave. SAG RAG 22:2, Mar-Apr 2003, p.11.

### **BAT AND JAMES BROTHERS** By Wayne Cedidla

On the April 26, 2008 SAG caving trip we visited several lava tube caves in the general direction of the Siskiyou County area. Instead of writing about the technical details of the caves we visited, I would like to mention the unique cave experiences I encountered on this trip. I have been on dozens of cave trips in the last few years, yet I am still new enough to caving that most trips result in observations or experiences that are new to me. This trip resulted in several.

#### **BAT CAVE**

Our first stop was Bat Cave. My initial observation was how easy it would be to not see a cave entrance, even if it's only 20 feet off the road. I often wonder how many caves are still waiting to be found due to near misses. This reminds me of a comment by Joel Despain regarding the new cave, Ursa Minor. He stated that prior to discovery several people, including himself, probably passed right over the cave entrance without notice. Bat Cave also offered me the opportunity to inspect a professionally made cave gate. Some day I hope to be involved in the construction and installation of a gate, and seeing how others have tackled the job is a big help.

After checking out the main entrance to Bat Cave, we hiked to the back entrance of the cave in order to check on a possibly long forgotten cave register. Our rappel into this opening resulted in a couple of unique experiences, starting with the descent rope. The rigging of the rope for this drop used one sturdy tree several feet back from the opening to act as an anchor and a second tree on the edge of the opening that served the purpose of redirecting the rope to a convenient rappel point. The problem with this redirect was

discovered when we attempted to exit the cave. Since the tree was located right on the edge of the opening, the rope dropped straight down into the opening from the base of the tree. The result was that passing over the lip was very difficult since an ascender could not pass beyond the point where the rope made contact with the tree, which was only inches beyond the lip. This situation was easily corrected by eliminating the redirect and allowing the rope to take its natural course from the anchor tree. The remaining people easily ascended with the newly rigged rope.

The other new experience at this cave was the snow and ice at the bottom of the drop. Since the drop was not entirely vertical it was necessary to "walk" down the wall while rappelling. The ice made the footholds a bit precarious on the descent as well as the ascent. Also, ice on the floor of the cave near the entrance made walking difficult. Having spent my life in Sacramento has left me slightly deficient at ice walking. Some of the ice in this area also had a unique pattern on the surface that I had never seen before. Melanie has photos of this ice pattern if anyone is interested.

### JAMES BROTHERS CAVE

After leaving Bat Cave we headed over to look for James Brothers Cave. We parked the cars and did a short hike, following GPS directions. We arrived at a cave entrance we thought might be James Brothers, even though the coordinates were a bit off. After passing over more ice near the entrance we explored the cave and decided it was not the right cave. A short search resulted in the real James Brothers Cave.

James Brothers Cave was a real pleasure for me due to its 4,000+ foot length with mostly easy upright walking. This cave also had very slippery ice at the entrance as well as beautiful icicles and ice columns. However, the most fascinating observation for me was the changing cross sectional shape of the passage. At various points the shape changed from near semi-circular to near rectangular to trapezoidal to triangular, and at the very end to what I would describe as a not too tight pancake passage. Although these shapes are typical in lava tubes, seeing them smoothly change from one to another while walking at a decent pace was fascinating to me.

Overall this was one of my more enjoyable cave trips and I would like to thank Jim for taking the time to lead us. **WC**

### BAT AND JAMES BROTHERS By Jim Wolff

The day after the 4-25-08 grotto meeting we went to check the cave register site in Bat Cave and to explore James Brothers Cave.

### BAT CAVE

As it turns out, the data base's UTM for the skylight entrance to Bat takes you over 200 feet beyond the actual entrance, but I was still able to find it. I established a new waypoint for the entrance.

Once at the cave, I managed to rig a line to where it was easy to get on rope, but a bad spot as far as the lip – it was well over-hung & there would be little to get your boots on that wasn't snow and ice-covered slope. In retrospect, I had enough rope to have left a little second tail to go over the edge, for ease of passing that tough lip. Oh well, with Pat Siegrist's suggestion, we just used the back-up anchor as our main and thus redirected the rope to the narrow spot of the cave opening – at least there was one tiny landing a few inches square, where the climber could free-climb out the rest of the way or continue up to the forest floor AND MUCH warmer temperature!

I was very low on blood sugar at the time, but didn't listen to the little voices that said "eat some food, Jimmy". So, doing the opposite, I then made a series of blunders, which I easily do, even normally. Anyway, I learned several lessons that day. Another one was to wear gloves. My knuckle was patched up on the surface, by Ed Babrow who by the way, stayed on the surface with Pat.

Once at the cave register site, we noticed the canister was gone, like I figured, but couldn't remember if we filled in the bolt hole. Nope, we hadn't. So, with the right sized rock, Ken corked up the hole with it, and with a much larger, heavier rock, he smashed the little rock right in to the hole. Now, we couldn't see a hole anymore, just the rough lava wall. And so, in no longer than one minute, we had mitigated the cave register site! After eating an energy bar that Wayne gave me, I felt that I had enough to get out of the cave and hike to James Brothers Cave.

### JAMES BROTHERS CAVE

So, following the data base's UTM for James Brothers, we arrived at another cave, which was not the one we wanted. This one was only 200 feet long or so. A little search later, we found the main cave a bit further downflow. Once inside, we knew this one to be the giant tube we wanted, because it kept going and going and going!

Afterwards, I looked at the preliminary map of the cave, and it showed a cave with big and narrow ledges that are sometimes used to go around big piles of breakdown. The cave was wet and windy, and here I was in just a cotton tee-shirt and light-weight summer shirt with sleeves. That was later supplemented by a balaclava for warmth. I had my glove and pads on now!

After finally reaching near the end of the cave, I rested with my lights out in large passage, where the cave narrows and gets low and windier. I watched Melanie and Wayne's white LED lights, and Ed's more yellow Petzl Duo light bobbing around under the low ceiling near the very back of the cave. Once they returned, I encouraged everyone to start out, as the daylight was slipping by, and we still had plenty of real rough terrain to cover in order to get back to the vehicles. At the cars, my back gave out on me. I sure had plenty to remind myself of this day, and I'm sure everyone else did too!

**JW**

### BAT JOKES

### Bighorn Bill



(Just in case you havn't done so already it is once again)

**Time to Renew Memberships and Subscriptions**

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\_\_\_\_\_ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$6 per person or family (circle one).

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to subscribe to CAL CAVER too for another \$10.

\_\_\_\_\_ SAG RAG subscription only, without grotto membership. \$6.

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL. Make checks payable to "Shasta Area Grotto", (not "SAG")  
and send to Steve Hobson 2433 California St. Redding CA 96001

**THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SHASTA AREA GROTTTO**

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

SAG RAG  
2916 Deer Mdws Rd  
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TO:

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