



Hannah Adams at the down-flow entrance to Cotterpin Cave 10-3-99.

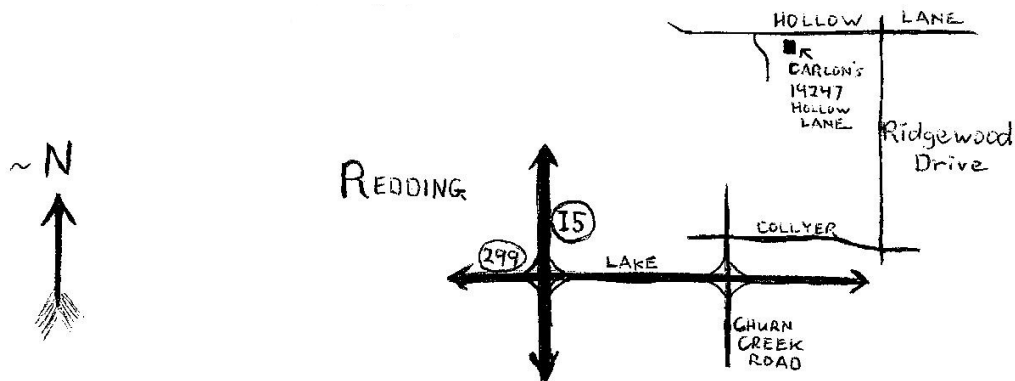
**INSIDE - Boy Scouts at Roadside Complex. Cotterpin at last.
Rounding up little doggies on the Double Hole.**

The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on 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 <caverbill@live.com>. For more on SAG, check the web site at <<http://www.caves.org/grotto/sag>>.

CAVER CALENDAR 2016

Apr 19-28	caving with Nat'l Cave & Karst coordinator (joeldespaincaves@gmail.com)
Apr 22	Carlton's in Redding
May 27-29	meeting & campout at Lava Beds
June 24	meeting & campout at Eagle Lake
July 1-4	Marbles; CRF at Lava Beds
July 17-23	NSS convention, meeting at convention
Aug or Oct ??	Scouts at Shasta Lake
Aug 26	meeting TBD
Sept 1-5	horse packing in Marbles
Sept 23	meeting TBD, prep for SAG/SAR cave rescue exercises, vertical gear required
Oct 8	SAG/SAR cave rescue exercises at Adam's Homestead Cave, vertical entrance
Oct	meeting TBD, critique and review rescue exercises

Map to April 22 Meeting



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

Ernie Coffman writes from Grants Pass "This link takes you to a nice article on WNS from the folks up north in Canada. It's written so that folks can understand what WNS is all about, but not so melodramatic as when it was first found in the States, back ten-years ago. Gives info on decontamination, etc., so worth a read."

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2627113/why-you-should-care-about-a-syndrome-thats-killing-millions-of-bats-in-north-america/>

I clicked on the link and brought up the report, so it should work for you too. We will be hearing more about the local Little Brown bat dead with White Nose Syndrome recently found up by Seattle. That is a big jump for the disease, and represents a real and present threat to our west coast bats.

BB

February 26, 2016 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 pm. at Hobson's in McCloud.

Present were: Bill & Judy Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Ginger Sanders, Dave Smith, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Jim & Liz Wolff and grandson Logan

Minutes: The minutes of the January Meeting were read by Bill Broeckel and accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report: We have a balance of \$722, plus some dues received but not yet logged.

SAG RAG Report: Bill will be away for a few weeks, the next RAG will come out after he returns.

Website and E-RAG: All working well.

Correspondence:

NSS has some job opportunities in the northwest and internationally.

Received a call from Cody Growe in Ashland. He may come to cleanup.

Frank Mangels reported an upcoming timber sale on a property that may have a cave in it.

Liz contacted Klamath National Forest about the Pluto cleanup tomorrow (2-27-16), and someone from there may come. [Update: Juan de la Fuentes from KNF joined us.]

Calendar

The March 25th meeting at Viners' has been changed to April 1, away from the Easter weekend.

Johanna Kovarik (FS National Cave and Karst Coordinator) will be here in April. Some cave trips are being planned for her.

The April 22 meeting may be at Dallas Carlon's in Redding.

Late May: possible Marbles trip.

May 28 SAG meeting at Lava Beds (Memorial Day Weekend)

June 24 SAG meeting will be at Eagle Lake.

July 1-4 CRF at Lava Beds.

July 1-4 Marbles trip.

July 17-23 Annual Meeting at Ely, SAG meeting will be held there.

Sept. 1-5: Marbles trip.

Oct. 8 will be SAG – SAR training. Our plans will be similar to last year's, which was cancelled because SAR was called away on a rescue.

Old Business:

Steve has made reservations for packers for the Marbles trip Thursday Sept 1 (packing in) to Monday Sept. 5 (packing out). Money needs to go to Steve in July. Talk to Steve to have your gear carried on these dates if you will need to be on a different time schedule.

Shasta Lake is down 67' from its crest, so the Lakelevel survey is out for now.

New Business:

Boy Scout troop 111 would like to go caving with us again. Barbara will check if something can be set up. There will be a Webinar on Huatla in March.

Trip Reports:

Jim, Liz, Steve, Doug and Dave Riggs went to Lava Beds after the January meeting. It was cold and blowy but they finished survey work at Natural Bridge and Battered Sherman.

Bill went to the CRF Presidents' Day Expedition, but no one else showed. He GPSed some caves on the Mammoth Crater flow.

Ginger Sanders was with a photography group at Lava Beds, doing the cave circle and Indian Wells. She also was in Nicaragua to visit Messiah Cave, but the area was closed by a volcano eruption.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Dave Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

The discovery of Triple Sticks Cavern by Troop 111

By Barbara Stufflebeam

10-17-2015

Boy Scout Troop 111 was waiting at Jot Dean Ice Cave when Steve Hobson, Liz Wolff, and Mike and Barbara Stufflebeam arrived at 9:00 am. This would be the troop's first experience in non-commercial caves. First cave of the day would be investigating the ice flow in Jot Dean Cave. Everyone climbed into the cave, out of the rain, and Steve Hobson gave safety instructions. The ice had receded substantially and was minimal so a rope was rigged to climb into the lower recesses of the cave for closer inspection. Aided by the rope and guided by the Stufflebeams the 18 boy scouts and 6 adult leaders traversed the ice. The brave clamored over icy rocks to investigate the area behind the frozen ice wall.

The initial plan had been to cross the nearby lava flow and investigate Deep Ice Cave and aMazing Pits. Liz had come prepared with survey maps of the surrounding lava flow, but with the rain the plans changed, the thought being that walking in the rain and climbing through ice caves would be chilly and unpleasant. Instead we investigated caves nearer the road.

The boys ranged in age from 11-18 and were divided into 3 groups, each with 6 scouts, 2 leaders and a caver. Group A consisted of the older boys 16-18, group B consisted of boys ages 13-15, and group C consisted of the younger youth ages 11-12. Each group would spend 2 hours in an activity before rotating to the next activity.

The order of the activities would be:

Caving and Surveying with Liz

Rappelling and Ascending with Steve:

Slithering with the Stufflebeams:

Group A, Group C and Group B

Group C, Group B and Group A

Group B, Group A and Group C



Troop 111 and cavers at the Roadside Complex 10-17-15.

continued

A New Cavern to Explore

It was towards the end of the day and the Stufflebeams were escorting Group C over the lava flow to view "The Bubble" an interesting geological feature beyond which there was evidence of a collapsed lava tube. Group C wandered over the collapsed roof of the lava tube searching for caves. A nearby embankment provided the perfect location to view the collapsed lava tube, and a discussion ensued on the possibility of a cavern beneath their feet. Closer inspection and the removal of a few loose rocks revealed a huge cavern with a 2' x 2' opening! As the sun set on an adventure filled day, the surveying of Triple Sticks (named by the fearless explorers who discovered it) will need to wait for another day. **BS**



Safety talk at Jot Dean 10-17-15.

Rappelling with Steve 10-17-15. →

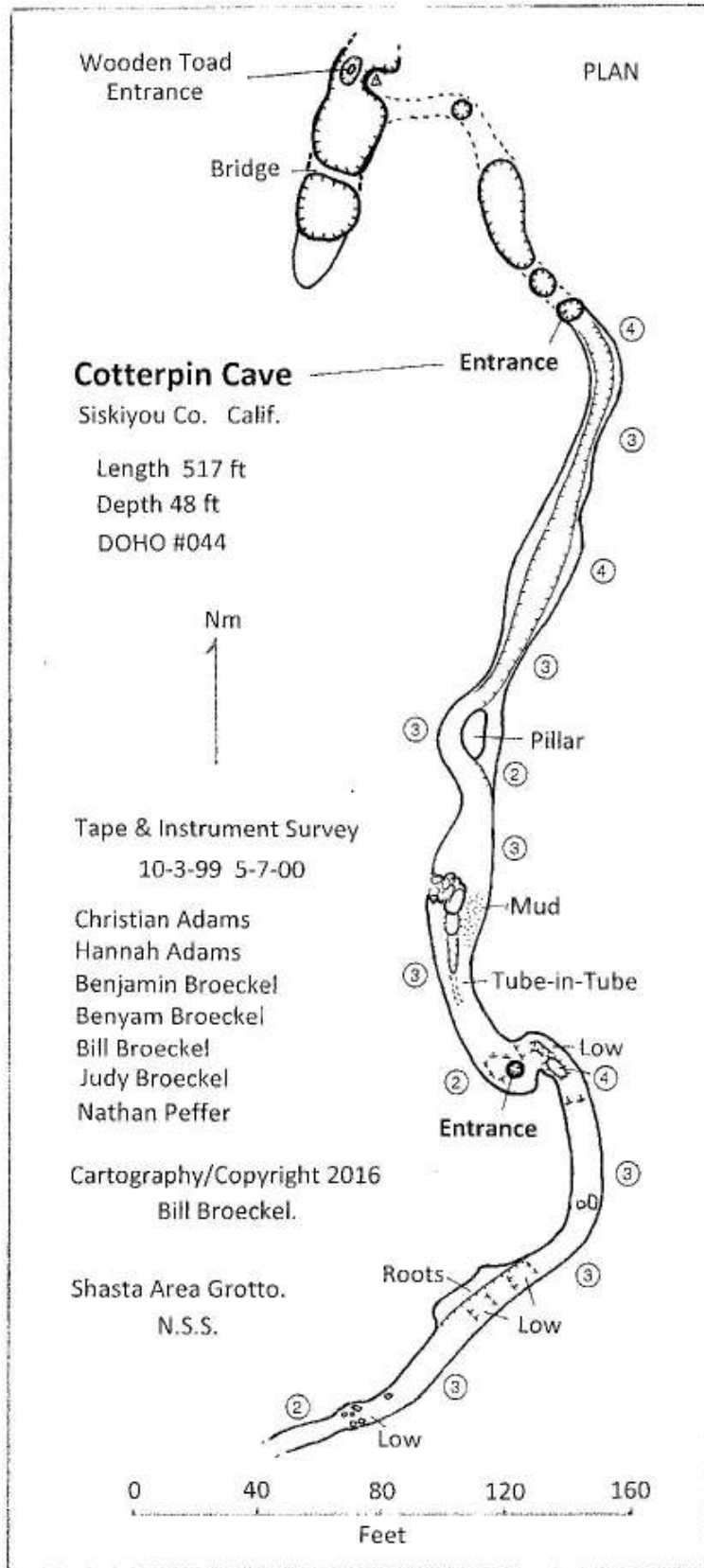


Surveying with Liz 10-17-15.



Slithering with the Stufflebeams 10-17-15.

Photos courtesy of Troop 111 (Vince Bragg, Kurt Walling and Peter Griggs).



Map: Cotterpin Cave

Cotterpin Cave at Last By Bighorn Broeckel

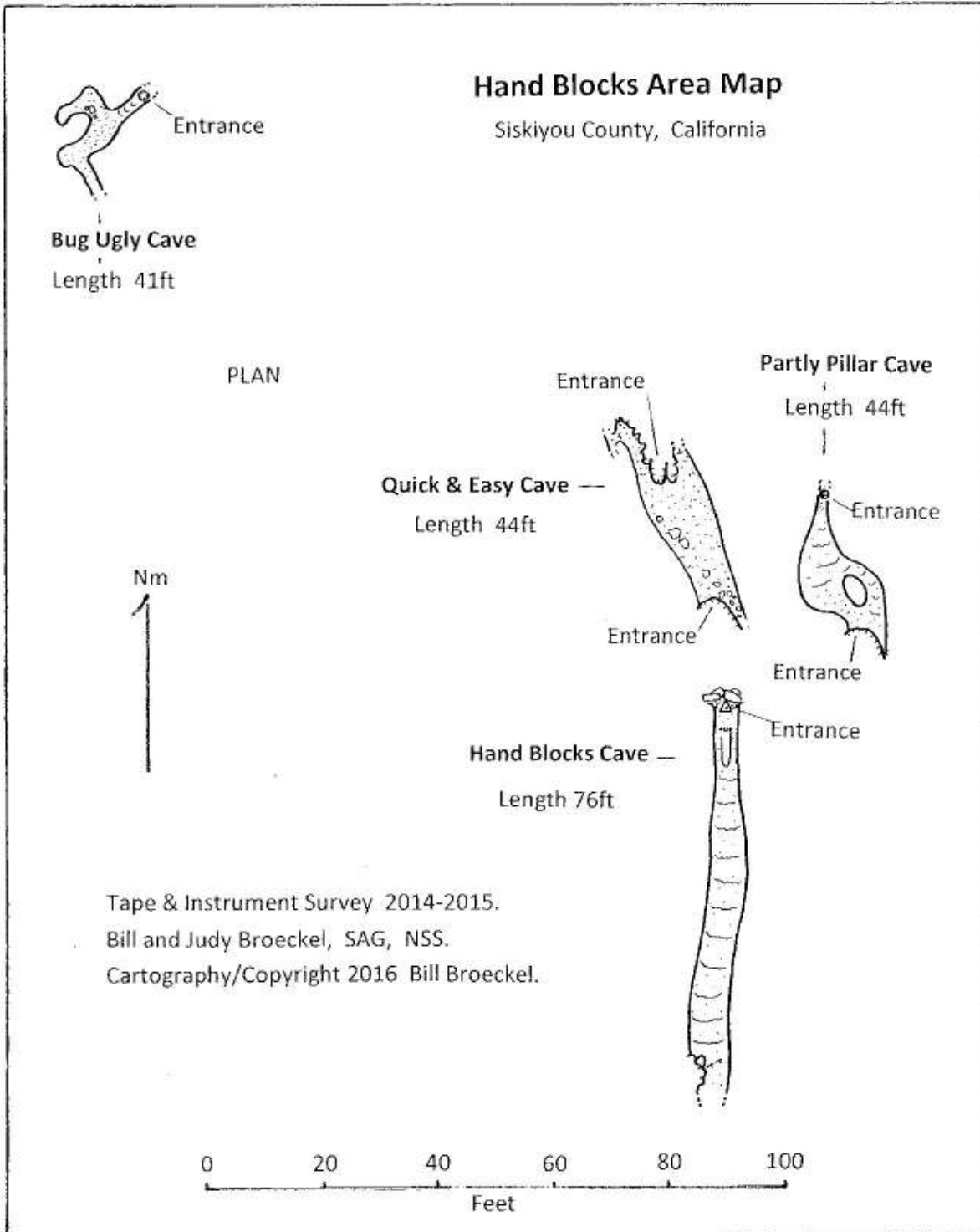
Seriously? A promise is a promise folks, and I promised to make good on Cotterpin Cave, and yes this is getting dredged up from a previous century. Back on the day when Russ Yoder showed us Wooden Toad (2852 feet), we all noticed this smaller, overflowing bypass that started as a series of flumes, bridges, and segments heading off from Wooden Toad's upper entrance. A large, rusted cotter pin was found nearby, so we started calling it Cotterpin Cave. Cave length is 625 feet if the broken links to Wooden Toad are counted. The 517 foot figure given here just applies to Cotterpin Cave proper.

That day we were busy with "The Toad", so we later took on Cotterpin as an orphan cave. It is, generally speaking, too small for adults. So our strategy for survey trips was to recruit children from the neighborhood. Kids can be enthusiastic about the novelty of crawling through tiny tunnels, finding crickets, and stuff like that. It took two trips, as we found it best to offer amenities such as rest stops, snacks, "toad" tours, fast food dinners, and safe returns free from injuries. Take good care of the troops and avoid early burn-out of the younger cavers.

So 16 years later, here is a finished rendition of the resulting map. Liz Wolff used the data years ago to show Cotterpin as related to Wooden Toad on one of many master maps showing entire cave-bearing flows of the Medicine Lake Volcano. Cotterpin starts off nice and the upper entrance is good. The lower entrance includes a steep slope of rocks so loose as to require traffic control. The cave gradually gets lower and meaner. The trend diverges from Wooden Toad, but in the end regains an overlap with its master tube, representing the re-entry point of the Cotterpin diversion. 517 feet is a long crawl to what appeared to be a dead end. We found a cairn at the lower entrance, and left the actual namesake cotter pin near the upper entrance. It is probably still there. **BB**



Hannah Adams with the cotter pin of Cotterpin Cave 10-3-99.



Map: Bug Ugly Cave, Hand Blocks Cave, Partly Pillar Cave, Quick & Easy Cave

Little cave round-up on the Double Hole

By Bighorn Broeckel

Presenting more weird caving booty from the recent drought years. It was possible to ridge walk the Medicine Lake Highlands year round through two consecutive winters.

This cluster of four small surface tubes showed up in a remote area lower down on the Double Hole Lava Flow. Quick & Easy is a short segment of duck walking. The through trip can be done in less than 30 seconds easy. Hand Blocks takes a little more doing, dropping in through the slot-like single entrance. These two caves represent the “master tube” for this cluster, with the other two being formed in overflow distributary lava.

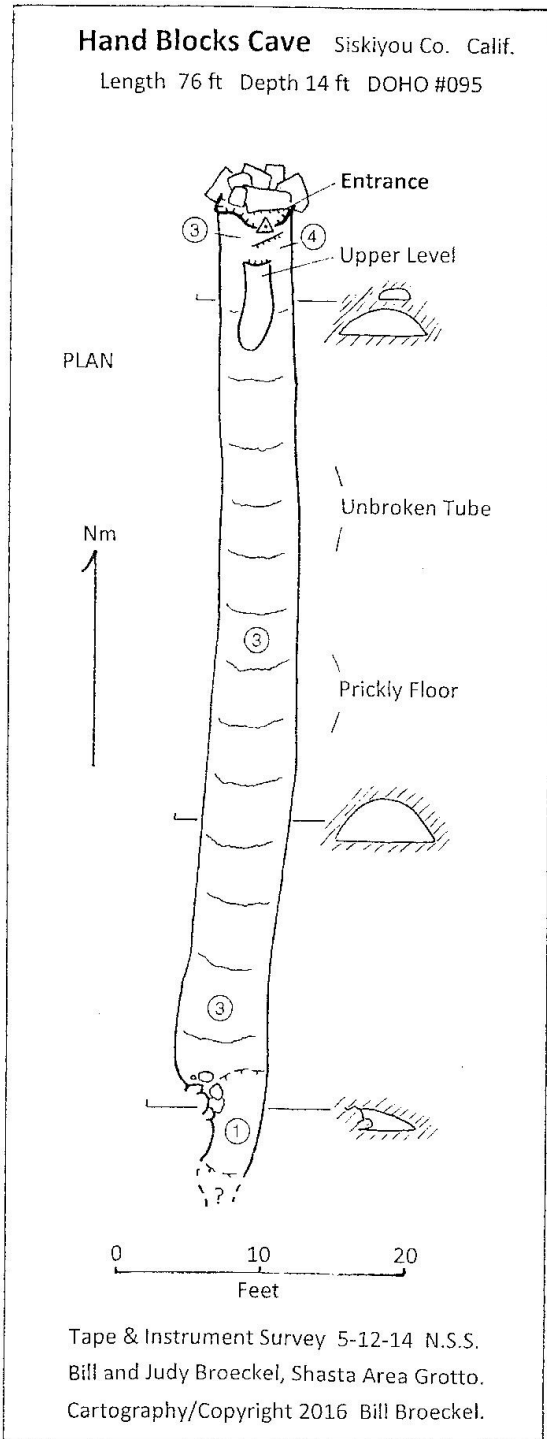
Hand Blocks was named when the cave was entered without gloves. The floor was sharp prickly cauliflower. Instead of sharing out one pair, or going back out the slot for the other pair, two smooth rocks were used as protective hand blocks. Like a wimpy yoga student, off I went exploring with the survey tape attached to the back of my belt. The intact tube was a straight shot hands and knees for 75 feet, a great find with the subtle entrance. Hand Blocks is the flagship for this fugitive gaggle of caves.

Bug Ugly and Partly Pillar are miserable crawly little caves. Clawing my way out the back door of Partly Pillar, I negated the need to squirm back through it. Judy wouldn't even go in this one (smart girl), but did take notations as I called out numbers on survey. What about Bug Ugly? I don't even want to talk about Bug Ugly. Don't go there. The total footage for all four caves combined is a grand total 205 feet!

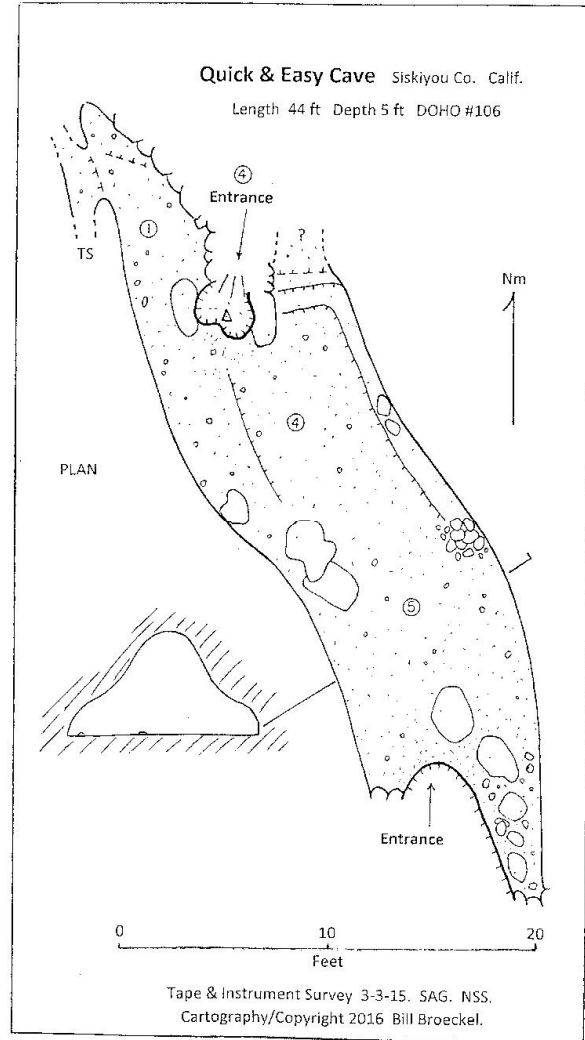
BB



Entrance to Hand Blocks Cave (tape reel is 6 inches long) 5-24-14.



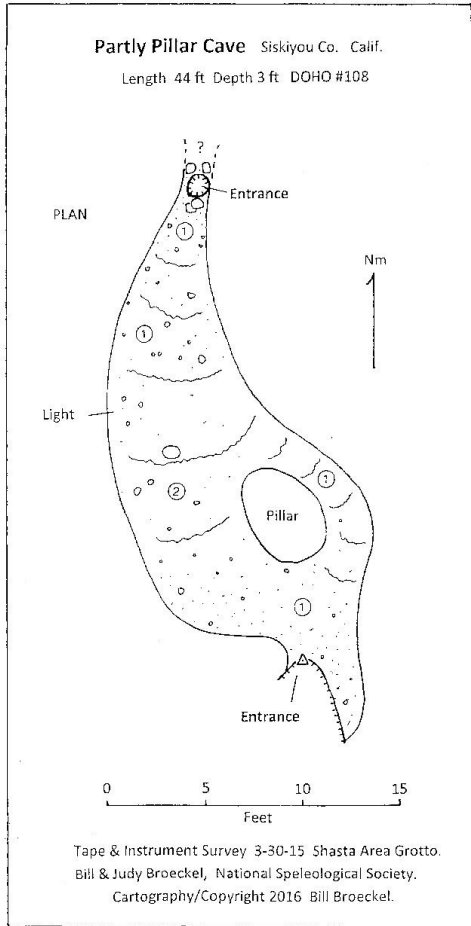
Map: Hand Blocks Cave



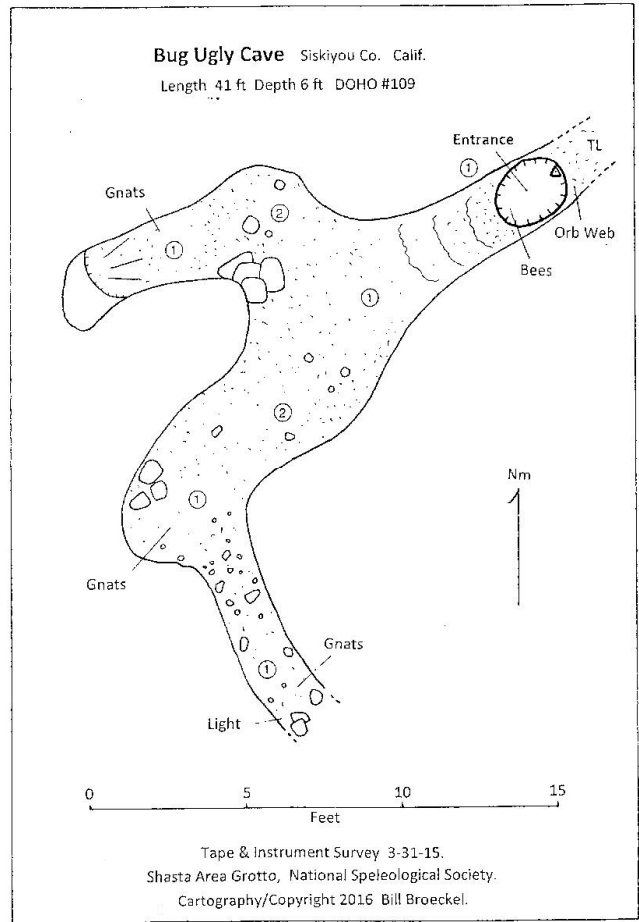
Map: Quick & Easy Cave



Down-flow entrance to Quick & Easy Cave 3-3-15.



Map: Partly Pillar Cave



Map: Bug Ugly Cave



Interior of Partly Pillar Cave 3-30-15.



Entrance to Bug Ugly Cave 3-31-15.

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