



Shasta Area Grotto dealing with Level Three cave vandalism at Garbage Pit on 6-24-17.

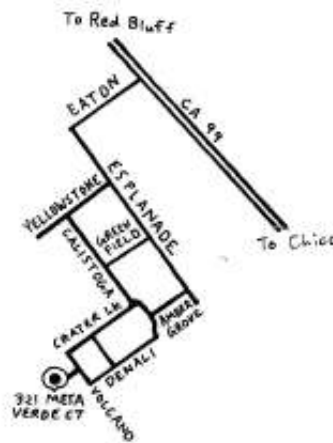
INSIDE – Shasta County Lava Cave Project Report

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 2017

Aug 25 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Dave & Joan Smith's in Chico 530-343-0321.

August Map to the Meeting



SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

The end of June is often on the warmish side out on the Shasta County lava flows. With a few tweaks and adaptations, we were able to bear up OK this year. However, we may need to rethink our timing of our annual contributions on behalf of the caves of Lassen National Forest. This year we ended up doing clean-up activities in three different caves, in some cases rather spontaneously. This underscores the concept that every cave trip is a clean-up trip, if we have the right attitudes and a few plastic bags ready to pounce on the chance of encounters with the detritus of the various forms of cave vandalism. Each of the three caves showed markedly different situations, leading to the idea of levels of damage done by humans to the hapless caves. Thus we here present a classification system involving three levels of cave vandalism, just as a tool to help us think and talk about what we are dealing with on these clean-up trips. We also managed to complete a survey on one of the deeper caves in the area, and an excellent addition to the list of 269 surveyed caves on the Shasta County Lava Cave Project. **BB**

June 24, 2017 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at Hat Creek Campground.

Present were: Bill and Judy Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Jim and Liz Wolff, and guest Colby Collins.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 26 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: We have a balance of \$ 964.00.

Website and E-RAG: Both are fine.

SAG RAG Report: The next issue is ready for release but needs details on the next meeting. It will include a Bruce Rogers article and a piece on Search and Rescue, plus a map of Bargain Basement Cave. The next issue after that will highlight Garbage Pit.

Correspondence:

We received a letter from Rafael Langer-Osuna asking if the date of the joint SFBC/SAG meeting can be changed to this August or to July next year.

We received a message from Ernie Coffman that Bob Liebman has died, and Bob & Bob's is closed. We may write an obituary for the SAG RAG, as he was a great friend and helper to cavers.

Liz received an email from James Hollister describing some caves he'd been to when he worked with the FS decades ago. She provided him some of the cave names and location help to revisit them; all are fairly well-known.

Calendar

June 30-July 4 Marbles weekend.

July 28 SAG meeting at Wolffs' in McCloud. Caving in Medicine Lake area Saturday.

Aug 25 SAG meeting at Smith's in Chico. Caving in Chester area Saturday.

Sept 1-6 (Labor Day) Marbles weekend, with pack mules. The cost will be \$175 per 75 lb. mule pack. Contact Steve for information.

Sept 22 SAG meeting at Steve's in McCloud. Cave rescue preparation Saturday.

Oct 6-8 Western Regional, Lava Beds National Monument

Oct 7-9 (Columbus Day) weekend Paul Gibson trip. Contact Joel.

Oct 14 Cave Rescue Practice with Siskiyou SAR.

Oct 27 SAG meeting at Broeckels' in Yreka.

Dec 8 SAG meeting at Wolffs' in McCloud. Cookie exchange.

Jan 26, 2018 SAG meeting TBA

Feb 23 SAG meeting TBA, cave cleanup Sat?

Mar 23 SAG meeting TBA

continued

Old Business:

We will have a separate SAG meeting during the joint SAG-SFBC caving weekend. The date may be changed to August or to July 2018.

Joel Despain cancelled the June trip to Paul Gibson due to snow. We need to confirm the time of his next (Columbus weekend) trip to be sure it does not overlap with the rescue practice weekend.

New Business:

For the October rescue practice with Siskiyou SAR we will focus on litter handling. The practice will be at Three Level Ice Cave, which will be COLD and will call for warm clothing. There will be some vertical component. We also need to reconfirm the date with SAR to be sure the Paul Gibson trip is not the same weekend.

There will be a 4th of July LABE trip.

We need to plan the SAG calendar for next year.

Trip Reports:

On Labor Day weekend Bill Devereaux, Colby Collins, Breanna Kisling, Steve Hobson, Bruce Rogers, Dave Smith, Doug Viner and Jim and Liz Wolff were at LABE.

Saturday Bill, Breanna and Liz were at Golden Dome to correct discrepancies in the cave map.

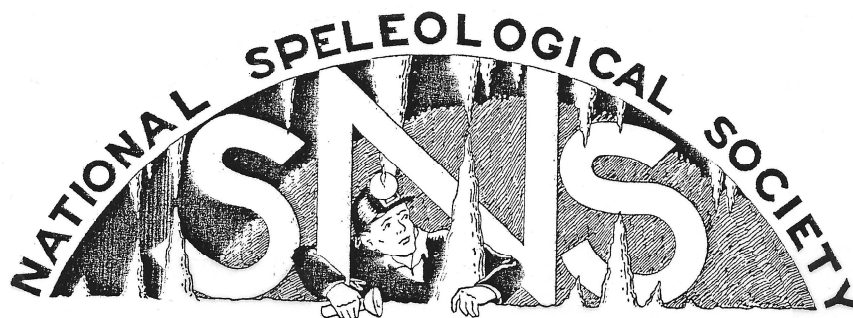
Colby, Dave, Jim and Steve went with Jarrod Breuer, Matt Leissring and Heather McDonald (MLG) to survey a cave Matt wanted to survey. Matt located a pin at what turned out to be the back entrance: and at headquarters learned it was China Shop Cave. It still had ice formations partway through and some ice at the back entrance. While there they checked out several nearby caves. That night Colby, Steve and Jarrod made a brief excursion to Merrill, Skull, Indian Well and Valentine Caves.

Sunday Dave, Doug and Jim and Liz Wolff surveyed Hmmm Bridges (281'). Dave put in a little extra ridgewalking time after failing to notice the 2 paved roads framing the lower entrance.

On June 21 Bill and Judy were in the Medicine Lake area, visiting Jot Dean and Chimney Crater (the road there is partly blocked). They followed a side trench to Shelter Cave and surveyed it at 131' with side branches. They also surveyed Hot House (68'), which has a small entrance but is roomy. The ceiling is near the surface, making the cave fairly hot.

Today (June 24) SAG members picked up a truckload of metal at Garbage Pit from the earlier cleanup. (It ended up at a recycle location in Chico.)

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.
David Smith, SAG Secretary**

DS

SHASTA AREA GROTTA CAVE RESTORATION CAMPOUT June 23-25, 2017

By Bill Broeckel

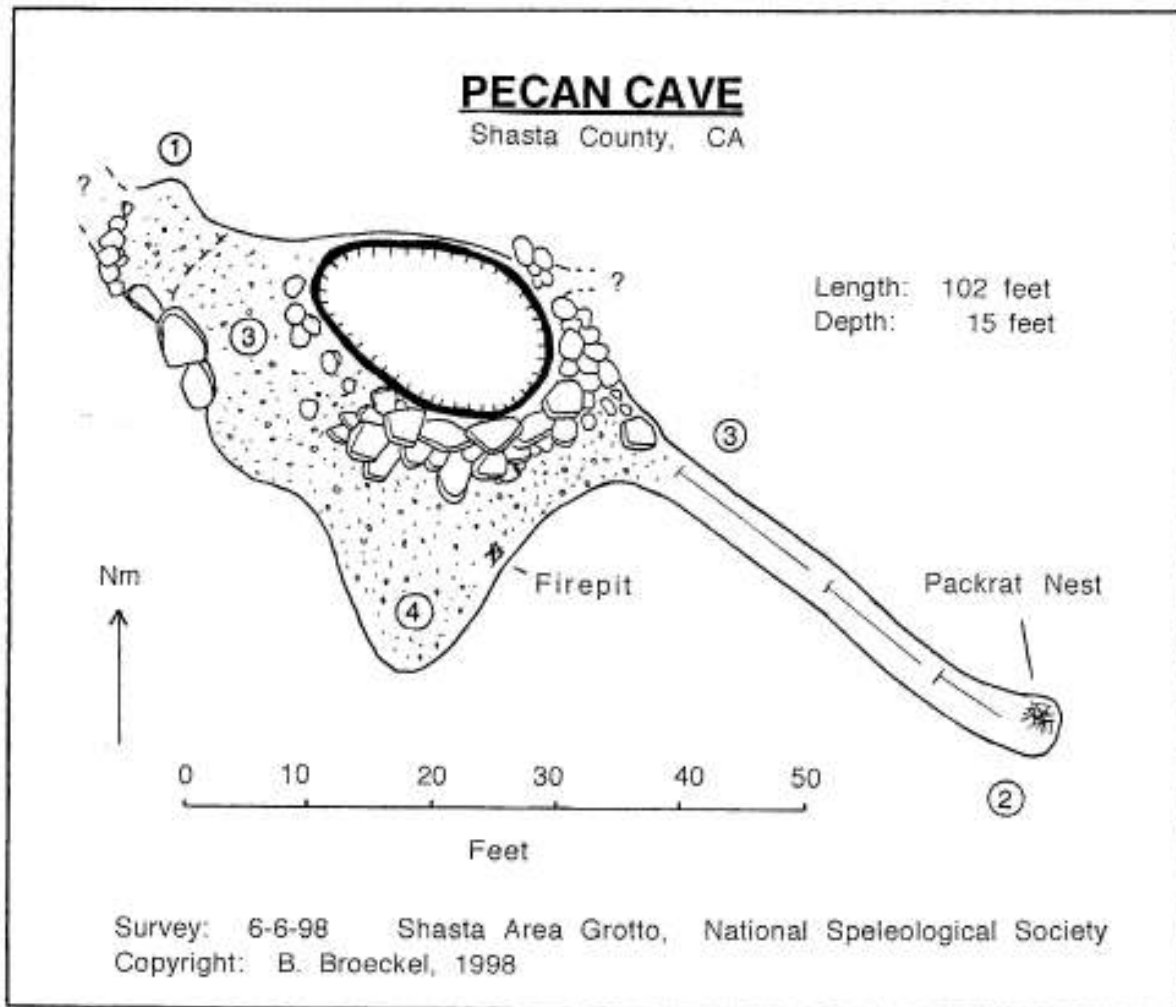
There were fine conditions for sleeping at the late June Grotto campout, in the lava cave fields of Shasta County. In the daytime, however, it was a bit on the warm side, and we made our adjustments accordingly. This particular weekend has become something of an annual event, and our agreement with the National Forest remains in place: we do some cave clean-up, and we camp for free in developed campsites. Amenities included picnic tables, drinking water, indoor plumbing, nice parking spots, and proximity to a rushing, snow fed mountain creek. All of it was especially appreciated this year given the hot weather in late June.

One of our hot weather strategies was to do our cave locating in the cool of the evenings. Thus it was dusk on Friday night when we set out for Pecan Cave. At last light we found the entrance and went in to check on things. Beverage containers and food wrappers were scattered about. The cave is pretty easy to find, and has been seeing some traffic. This time, however, it was easy for us to pick up the trash, and in about 10-15 minutes we had the cave in ship shape. Colby Collins and Dave Smith went down to the end of the crawlway to make sure. Also, a mouse was noted moving about an odd corner of the main chamber. Ah yes. Shasta County lava caves are so short that... all the inhabitants are nocturnal. Well, at least in the summer.

On our way back, I was thinking about how easy it was to clean-up Pecan Cave. It occurred to me that there are different levels of cave vandalism. Pecan Cave would represent a low level, let's call it Level One. This would be casual impacts by people just being careless or lazy, and not picking up after themselves. I would also include accidental or incidental effects such as losing things like gloves, buttons, threads, lint, or even leaving boot prints or scuff marks. There are often little traces of previous human traffic that can be recognized in caves. With all of this, there is a lack of malicious intent involved with Level One Cave Vandalism.

Saturday, we did a second round of night caving, intending this time to tour a worthy cave. Driving along, we were stopped for a while by a recent accident on the highway. We were eventually directed to pass by the flashing emergency lights, and we made it to our desired destination. We entered and started off down a 1,000-ft + borehole lava tube with interesting ceiling features. However, scattered trash, bottles, broken glass, and recent graffiti took us by surprise. Some of the graffiti had hateful meanings. We scrounged up a few plastic bags, and our evening tour trip suddenly morphed into another clean-up. Not fully prepared for this, we just tried to pick up "the big stuff", and soon filled our bags. Way back in there, where the cave finally started getting low, Hobson and I took a break while Dave and Colby explored further. The cave was amazingly straight at this point, and it was fun to watch the advance team as tiny moving figures off in the far distance. We could tell when they turned around and headed back. Soon we all were walking along toward the entrance, and enjoyed seeing a bat or two flying about the large passage.

continued



Pecan Cave map was previously published in SAG RAG 17:5 Sept-Oct 1998.

Map: Pecan Cave

I got to thinking again about the vandalism thing, and decided that this cave was a good example of Level Two Cave Vandalism. This is probably mostly done by small groups of people behaving badly. They plan ahead to bring drugs and alcohol into the cave. Garbage is strewn about as a matter of course, and bottles are thrown and broken on purpose. Graffiti is also a premeditated activity often conveniently done with cans of spray paint. The group intent is to leave their mark or statement in the cave for others to see. The content may or may not be hateful. In this cave, it was definitely hateful, and thus I will not reveal the content or the cave, so as not to further their cause in any way. The main distinguishing feature of Level Two Cave Vandalism is premeditated malicious intent.

During the day on Saturday, we set out on the keynote event of the weekend, which was taking our third stab at cleaning up Garbage Pit Cave. Unfortunately, it was already rather hot when we got started. It was cooler down at the bottom of the pit, and we were able to pick up a little. Our major accomplishment, however, was in fully loading the back of Dave's pick-up with various metal fragments that we had previously removed from the cave. Dave was later able to haul it off and donate it to a scrap metal place.

Sadly, Garbage Pit Cave has functioned as a local illegal dump site, and much of the debris is really piled in and beyond our ability to remove. Some of it has been covered over with local rocks and dirt, like you might see at a regular landfill operation. The possibility of hazardous materials is an unknown. At this point I would say that we could put in one more day of picking up little loose stuff, and we will have done what we could. Also, there are still piles on the surface that need to be hauled off, including about 20 tires.

continued



Dave Smith's truck getting loaded 6-24-17.

Some folks were really feeling the heat, so we backed off a little early this time. While we were headed back to our partly shaded campsites, I was thinking about the extensive trashing we were dealing with out at Garbage Pit. This is clearly a case of Level Three Cave Vandalism. The definition would be large scale industrial, commercial, institutional, or community activity with adverse effects on a cave or caves. Using a pit entrance as an illegal dump site is obviously a major community-based pattern of abuse. The evidence for industrial/commercial dumping is even worse, and includes the operation of heavy equipment to landfill the pit. The hallmarks of Level Three would be mega-damages perpetrated by organizations bearing responsibility. As we have seen at Garbage Pit, the damage done at Level Three can be very difficult to reverse. Plans that exponentially increase traffic through caves, commercialize a cave, or blast an entrance shut might also be included here.

So, we worked in three caves this weekend that represented all three levels of cave vandalism. Just to review:

Pecan Cave	Level 1	Casual, careless, or accidental
'Saturday Night' Cave	Level 2	Premeditated, malicious
Garbage Pit Cave	Level 3	Large scale, organizational

Later on Saturday afternoon, we were able to get further underground, where it was cooler, and completed a new cave survey. Participants in the weekend campout, in reverse alphabetical order, were Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, Dave Smith, Steve Hobson, Colby Collins, Judy Broeckel, and Bill Broeckel. Excused absences are extended to Mike and Barbara Stufflebeam (Cave Man and Hot Lips) who were out clicking along the Pacific Crest Trail. **BB**



Dave Smith and Colby Collins finishing up 6-24-17.

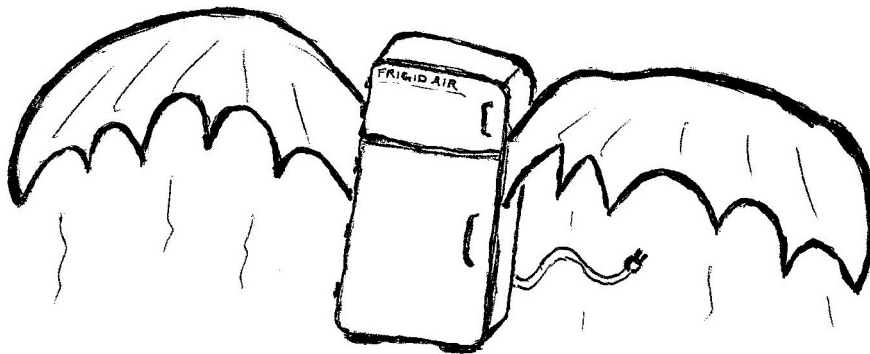
FLYING FRIDGE CAVE SURVEY

By Bill Broeckel

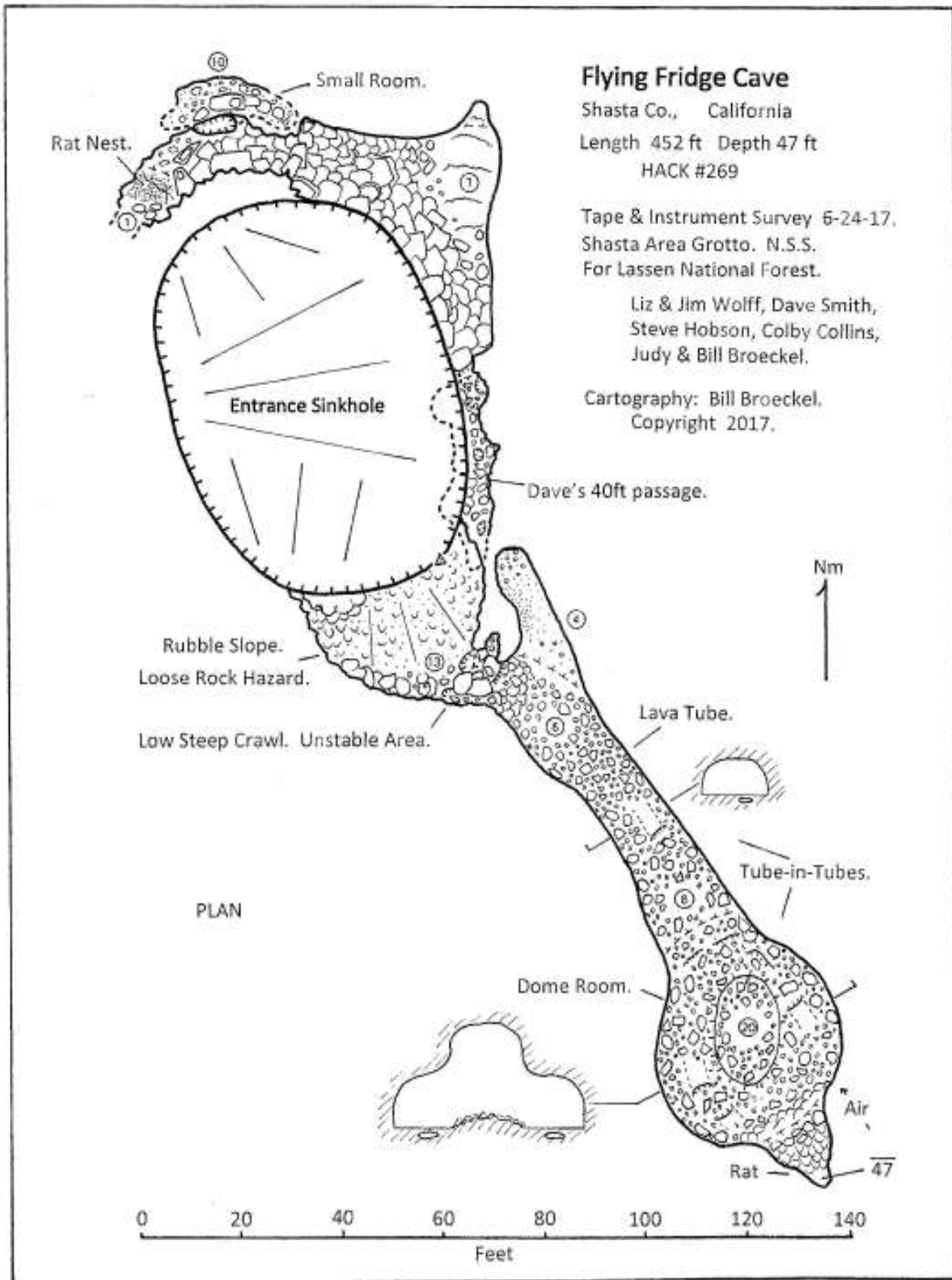
SHASTA COUNTY, CA: Saturday, June 24, 2017, Shasta Area Grotto surveyed Flying Fridge Cave. We divided into two mapping teams – the north team and the south. There was a narrow and loose hole leading down into the main passage. A previously used route was found to be now impassable. But another possibility had opened up to the left. Obviously, this was an unstable area, and it had been shifting around since our last visit. We relocated a few rocks. However, the last key rock turned out to be a real doozy and was actually long enough to be sitting on the ledge below the drop. It was one of those tip of the iceberg things. We were able to wrap a sling around it. Three of us were then able to put a good shake on the rock, but it wouldn't fall off the ledge. However, it did jiggle slightly to the right side. That gave just enough space, so two of us were able to slide down past the shaky rock. Now we had our south survey team but we dared not mess with that rock anymore. Just a tiny shift back could trap us.

The passage below was a very nice lava tube leading to a terminal dome room. At the far side of the room, a loose slope narrowed down to the lowest point in the cave (47-ft below the surface). Air was coming out from down there, but prospects did not look too easy. A rat was also seen moving about down in that lead. The tube-in-tubes were neither pushed nor surveyed, so in theory the cave length could be extended a few tens of feet. Meanwhile, the north team was busy contributing to the cave length, mapping breakdown passages that led to a big rat nest and a small area of original floor.

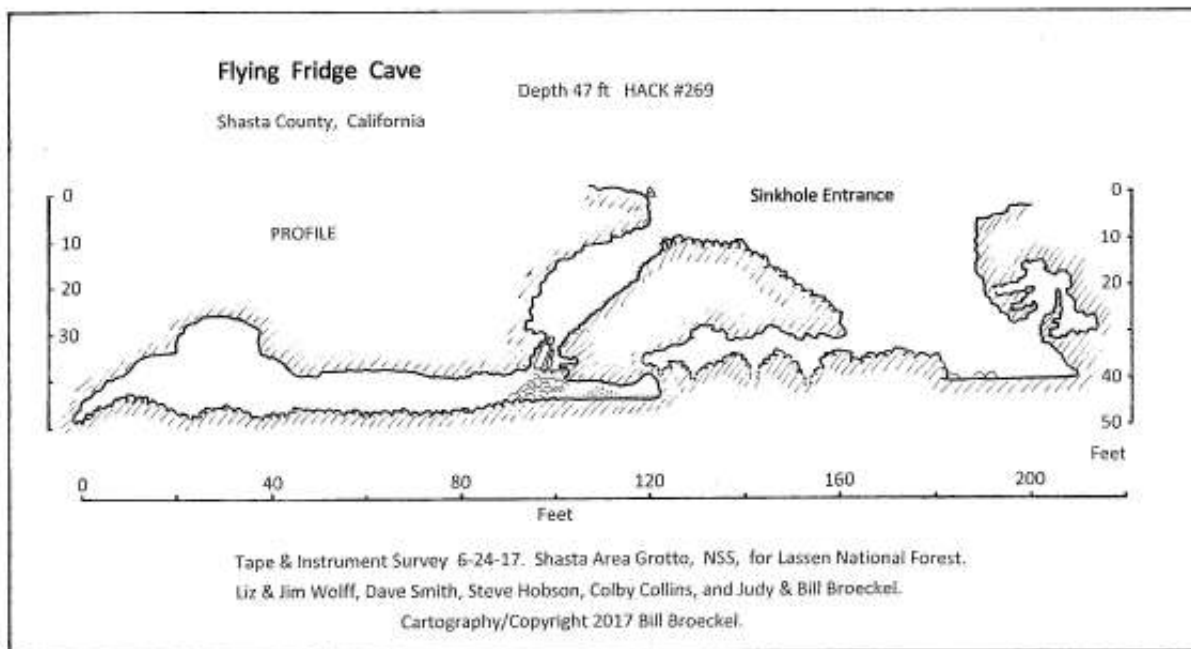
As it currently stands, the cave is 452-ft long, and is the 25th longest cave on the project. The total project surveyed passage length is now up to 47,773-ft, and somewhere in Flying Fridge Cave, on June 24, 2017, we passed the 9 mile mark. The project leader would like to express thanks to all who helped out getting a map done on this old cave, and to the grotto and the forest service for support on these trips over the years. **BB**



With fond memories of the famous flying refrigerator incident. Note also that we think we may have finally located the Cave of the Flying Blue Tubas.



Map: Flying Fridge Cave



Map: Flying Fridge Cave



Garbage Pit Cave entrance looking better these days 6-24-17.

Shasta Area Grotto is an Internal Organization of the National Speleological Society.

<p>THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SHASTA AREA GROTTTO</p>
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<p>The Shasta Area Grotto is a conservation organization devoted To the protection and study of caves and their contents.</p>
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**SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
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