



**Shasta Area Grotto approaching Tehama County Cave #2. 8-26-17**

**INSIDE: Siskiyou and Tehama Counties – 3 new cave maps.**

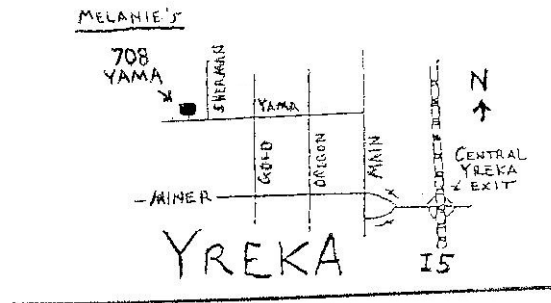
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG. Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. 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 2018

Jan 26 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie's in Yreka 530-842-9714.

### Map to the Meeting

Jan



### SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

What a blessing to have Ernie Coffman as a Shasta Area Grotto member for so many of his later years. He had also been a regular member of Jefferson State Grotto – Southern Oregon Grotto. He brought us a wealth of caving experience and opinion, and has served as a sort of grotto conscience, making comments and checking in from time to time at meetings and cave trips. In sorrow, I report that Ernie passed away this last November. A memorial service is being planned in Grants Pass for March 24, 2018. Save this date and watch for more information as it becomes available. It would be fitting for cavers to be present to honor our fellow member and good friend. All cavers will be welcome at this service.

This SAG RAG features three new cave maps, with reports. Liz Wolff's is from a regular scheduled grotto trip last summer to Tehama County. This certainly was a great day in the woods thanks to preliminary research and footwork by Tom Rickman and Dave Smith. We need some more trips to this new (to us) cave area. We also still have some new material on Joel Despain's recent trips to Paul Gibson Cave coming in a future RAG soon, so stay tuned.

**BB**

## August 25 2017 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm at Smith's in Chico.

Present were: Bill Broeckel, Dave Smith, Barbara and Mike Stufflebeam, Jim and Liz Wolff, and guest Gary Baranzini

**Minutes:** The minutes of the July 28 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report.

**Website and E-RAG:** Both are fine, the new issue is online.

**SAG RAG Report:** Nothing is ready for the next Sag Rag as yet. It will have articles on Wine Jug Cave, and road clearing and caving at Freudian Complex.

### Correspondence:

Doug Viner sent a notice from the NCRC on a small party rescue course in October.

He also sent instructions for downloading a new USGS guide to the geology of the Medicine Lake region. The guide includes excellent pictures highlighting the region's topography.

Doug also sent copies of the DC Grotto Speleograph with a Bill Halliday autobiography and a photo of 4 intrepid (well, named anyway) SAG members at Hmmm Bridges.

We received a note from Juan de la Fuente asking who helped with the Pluto's cleanup. Liz sent the relevant SAG RAG issue for him to circulate.

### Calendar

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 1-6	(Labor Day) LABE weekend.
Sept 20	FS and Fish & Wildlife Bat Walk at Barnum Cave. See Liz 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 6-9	(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

### Old Business:

Joel Despain wants to survey APC and Scorpion caves.

### New Business:

Tom Rickman sent us a new Forest Service book, Cave Fauna of CA, with contributions by Geo Graening.

### Trip Reports:

Bill investigates some crack caves east of Spattercone, and surveyed Awful Waffle (80'). On his next trip out he and Marc Heins (SoCal Grotto) visited Sign Cave at Porcupine Butte. The next day they surveyed 1400' in Sushi Cave (crawling 200' before reaching big passage). This cave was named by Russ Yoder.

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Grotto members also surveyed Flying Fridge (reported in the last issue of the Sag Rag), and Wine Jug (an 80' cave, to be in the next issue).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.  
David Smith, SAG Secretary

**DS**

## September 22 2017 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm. at Hobson's in McCloud.

Present were: Bill and Judy Broeckel, Colby Collins, Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Barbara and Mike Stufflebeam, Jim and Liz Wolff, and guests Jake McCoy and Emily Pew.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the August 20 meeting were accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasury has a balance of \$964. There were no transactions since last meeting.

**Website and E-RAG:** Both are in good shape.

**SAG RAG Report:** Next RAG will have material from our last trips, including Wine Jug and Chinquapin caves and maybe Sushi, which is now at 1420'.

**Correspondence:** We got an inquiry on Hall City Cave from a TV station staffer looking to do a report. We sent the relevant SAG RAG articles and names of contacts.

### Calendar

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Apr 28	California Cave Life Symposium, CA Academy of Sciences SF. This is a 6-hour event. Panelists include Joel Despain, Tom Rickman and Bruce Rogers.

### Old Business:

The Cave Fauna of California is now available and can be purchased from Speleobooks. People with copies can get them signed at the symposium in April.

The USGS Geologic Field-Trip Guide to Medicine Lake Volcano is also out and can be downloaded at no charge. It has excellent pictures of area geology.

Colby has joined SAG, but under NSS rules he cannot join NSS unless a parent or guardian also joins.

### New Business:

We will be doing cave rescue planning at 3 Level Ice Cave Saturday. SAR practiced patient packaging last month and will have patient packaging supplies and 2 vertical kits, but don't know what they will need to bring. Patient handling and litter hauling are priorities, as the people coming may not have had

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previous cave experience. Bill said that hand lines will be needed for part of the haul. There will be 2 patients, one with Type II diabetes and a bad knee, the other unconscious in a pit after falling from a rope.

Emily Pew is visiting as part of an ethnography project looking at cavers. She hopes it can be used to attract funding for youth outreach and cave protection programs.

### **Trip Reports:**

After the August meeting, the Stufflebeams, Jim and Liz Wolff, Dave Smith and his brother-in-law JB (Gary) Baranzini ridge walked near Wilson Lake, visiting Wilson Lake Cave 2, which they surveyed, and 1" Frog Cave (named by Bill) and Wilson Lake Cave 3, which Bill renamed Cedar Cellars. There are at least 2 more caves in the general area.

Bill was at Porcupine Butte with Mark Heins and surveyed Formula 44 Cave (it is 44' long and about 1' high. In the Freudian Complex Bill and Judy surface surveyed the next cave (Composure Cave) up from Wine Jug, which goes about 100'. It might connect to Sang Freud through a 1' high passage.

Labor Day weekend Jim, Liz and Doug Viner were at Lava Beds, finishing their check of Golden Dome. At a few points they made voice and radio contact from the cave to the surface and with Jim in Maze cave. Matt Leissring, Heather McDonald and Jeremy Delcio from MLG also helped out. The cave location and mapping fieldwork project Liz has been working on is done.

On the Sept. 20 bat walk bats were seen in Barnum Cave, so visitors stayed outside. The cave is a hibernaculum.

Also on Sept 20, Russ Yoder visited Katelma Cave, and looked for but didn't find a cave he spotted on Google Earth.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.  
David Smith, SAG Secretary

**DS**



Vertical entrance into large cave between Sushi and Formula 44.



## TEHAMA CAVING      By Liz Wolff

The most memorable quote from the August 25, 2017 trip to Tehama County had to be from Mike Stufflebeam as he optimistically contemplated a breakdown choke ahead of him: "Eight inches, almost doable..." or maybe it should be Dave's description of the approach hike, "1/2 mile pretty level on an old road, and then steep up for 1/4 mile." Dave's description of the approach hike was, well, wrong. He didn't remember the road climbed more steeply than the bush-whack out to the cave. The objective of the day was to survey Tehama County Caves 2 & 3, and if there was time, do Cave #1 too.

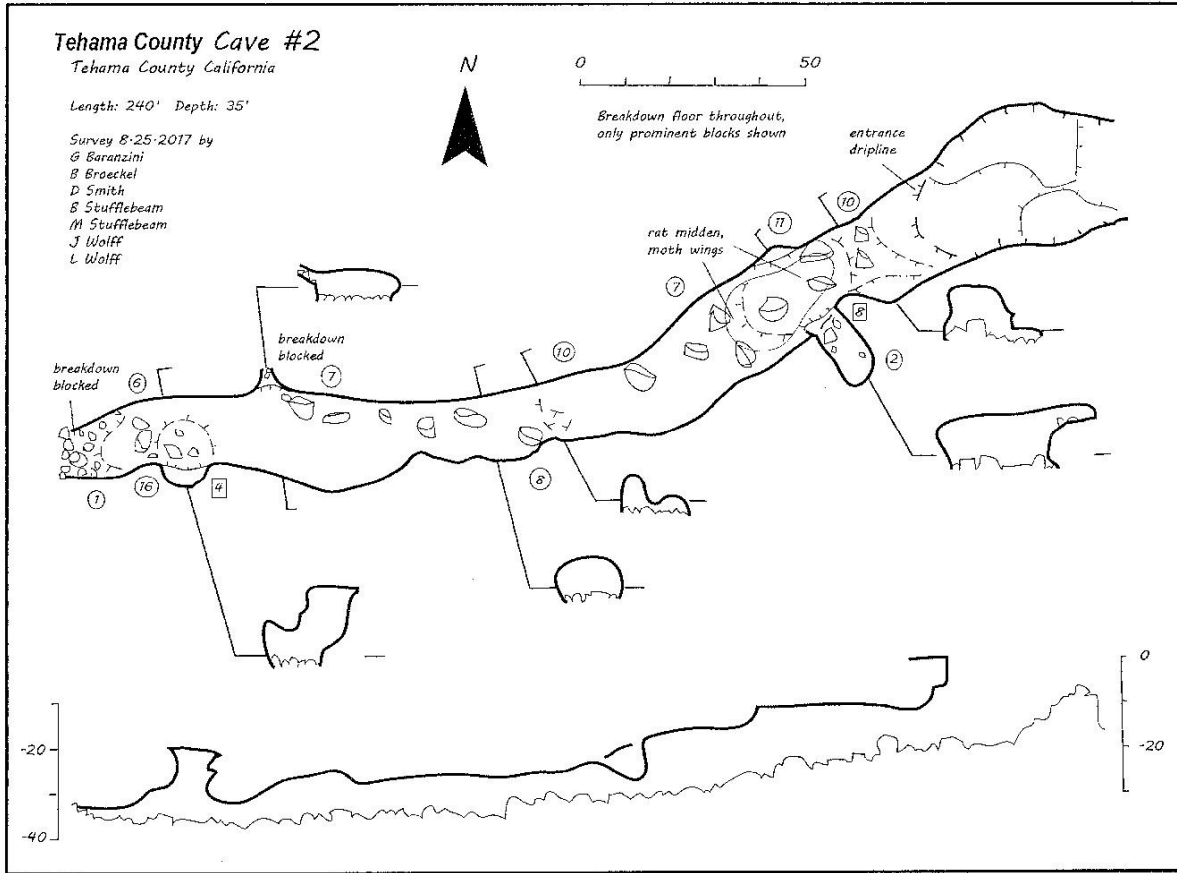
Bill Broeckel, Dave Smith and his brother-in-law Gary Baranzini (JB), Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, and Jim & Liz Wolff left the cool comfort of Dave's place in Chico to drive the windy highway. They stopped and hiked down to a falls, contemplating the "fish ladder" that had never worked (according to an informative sign) and looked like it might actually be caver-passable from the intake above the falls to fish entrance at the bottom.

The seven started from the top cave, #2, so it would be all downhill from there. Inside the cave Liz spotted an upper level side passage that slowed the survey somewhat. It was reached via an easy eight foot climb. A station, with the height of "one Dave" was set in front of the side passage and a disto shot was taken for the length. The main cave descended quickly to a long level just before a dome. The cave pinched down to Mike's infamous quote spot, choked with breakdown just beyond a 16' tall dome; the dome looked as if it could be a covered skylight. While he sat waiting for the survey crew to reach him he found a translucent spider. There were many small pools of water perched on breakdown blocks in the back half of the cave. Rat and bat guano and discarded moth wings dotted the rocks in the first half of the entirely breakdown floored cave. The cave taped out to 240 feet, and is 35 feet deep.

Murphy's Law works well when hiking through the woods from cave to cave. Hiking down from #2 on our way to #3, Jim came across some entrances in the side of the trench we had been following. The three entrances and a long crack were connected to each other. Several small frogs were found inside so the cave was named One Inch Frog Cave (descriptive of the frogs, not the cave), which is estimated to be between 50-70 feet in length. We didn't take the time to survey it, opting to head for #3 after GPS'ing the three entrances. Then JB found an entrance underneath two cedar trees at the end of a short and very narrow trench. He wanted to name his first virgin cave find ever Grotto de Baranzini, but it will probably be named the Cedar Cellar. It was explored, but not surveyed, and was estimated to be about as long as Cave #2. In conferring later with Tom Rickman, Cedar Cellar is his cave #3.

It was getting late, hunger was setting in, so the group opted to call it a day and head for the cars.

**LW**



Map: Tehama County Cave #2



Gated fish tunnel mentioned in article. 8-26-17

**SUSHI CAVE**

By Bill Broeckel

Russ Yoder found this cave in lava and named it Sushi because of what it did to his knees. Judy and I padded up one day, and started the survey. After dragging tape for 200 crawly feet, the cave surprised us by intersecting a larger tube. We did the natural thing scooping 200-300 more feet of easy passage and deciding we needed more help. We had a tiger by the tail.

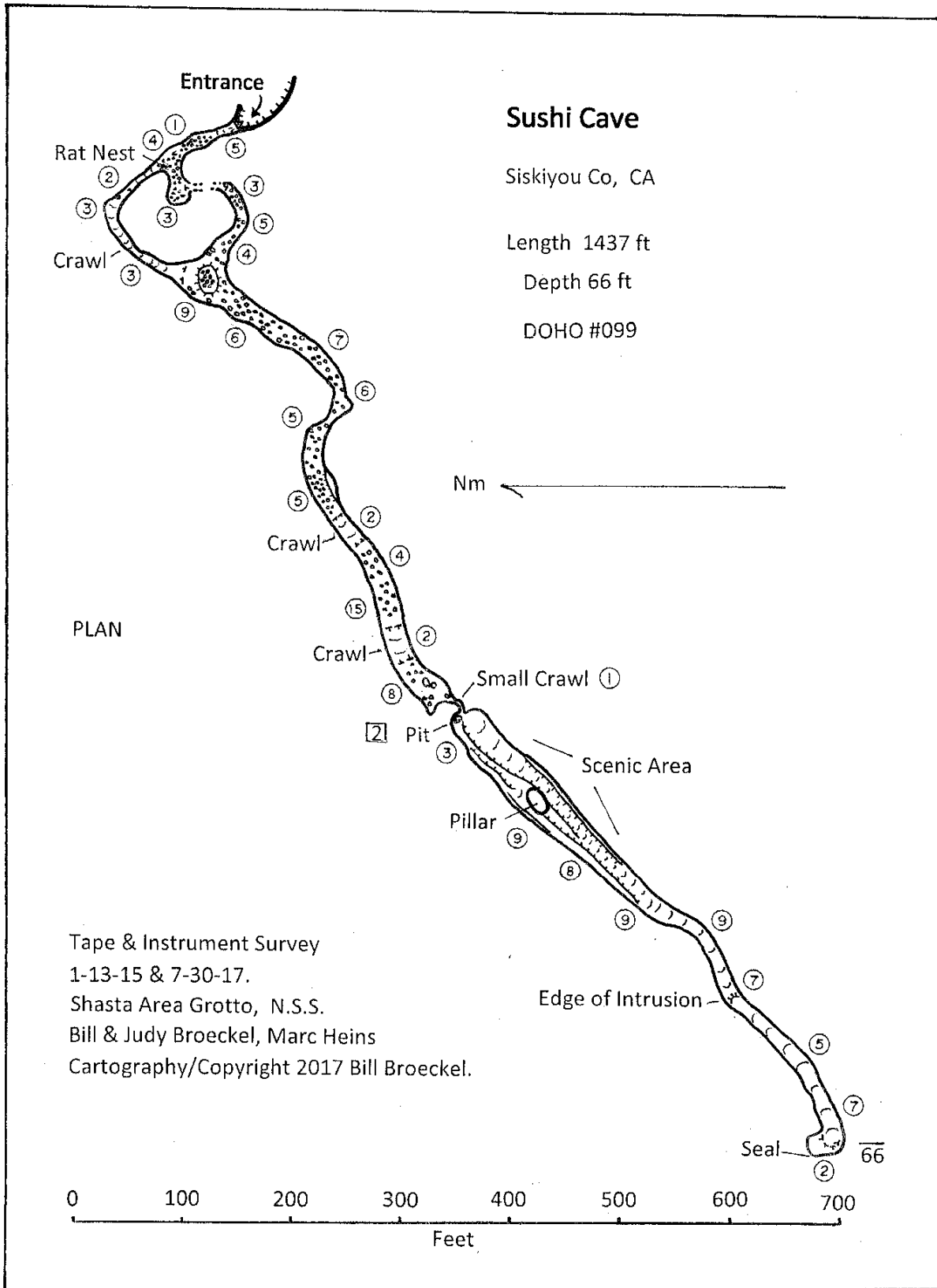
When Marc Heins visited last summer, help had arrived. After we toured a few easy caves, I set him loose on lead tape deep in the Sushi tiger. The cave continued downflow through several intermittent crawlways. The last of these was the clincher, extending as it did through shifting and crumbly sharp stuff. The cave reserves its largest and most scenic area for those who persist through all the crawls. We took long shots into booming misty halls along terraced ledges and around a large pillar. It felt like we were in a dream.

Reaching the front edge of a backflow intrusion of lava, we knew that the end was near. Sushi Cave terminates cleanly at a seal with a laughing tongue of the interloping intrusion. We found a small cairn. The dream was over. Total length for Sushi is 1437 feet, and depth 66 feet. Sushi joins the hundred or so 1,000+ foot caves in our area, the precise number depending on how exactly you divvy up the cave loop out at Lava Beds. **BB**

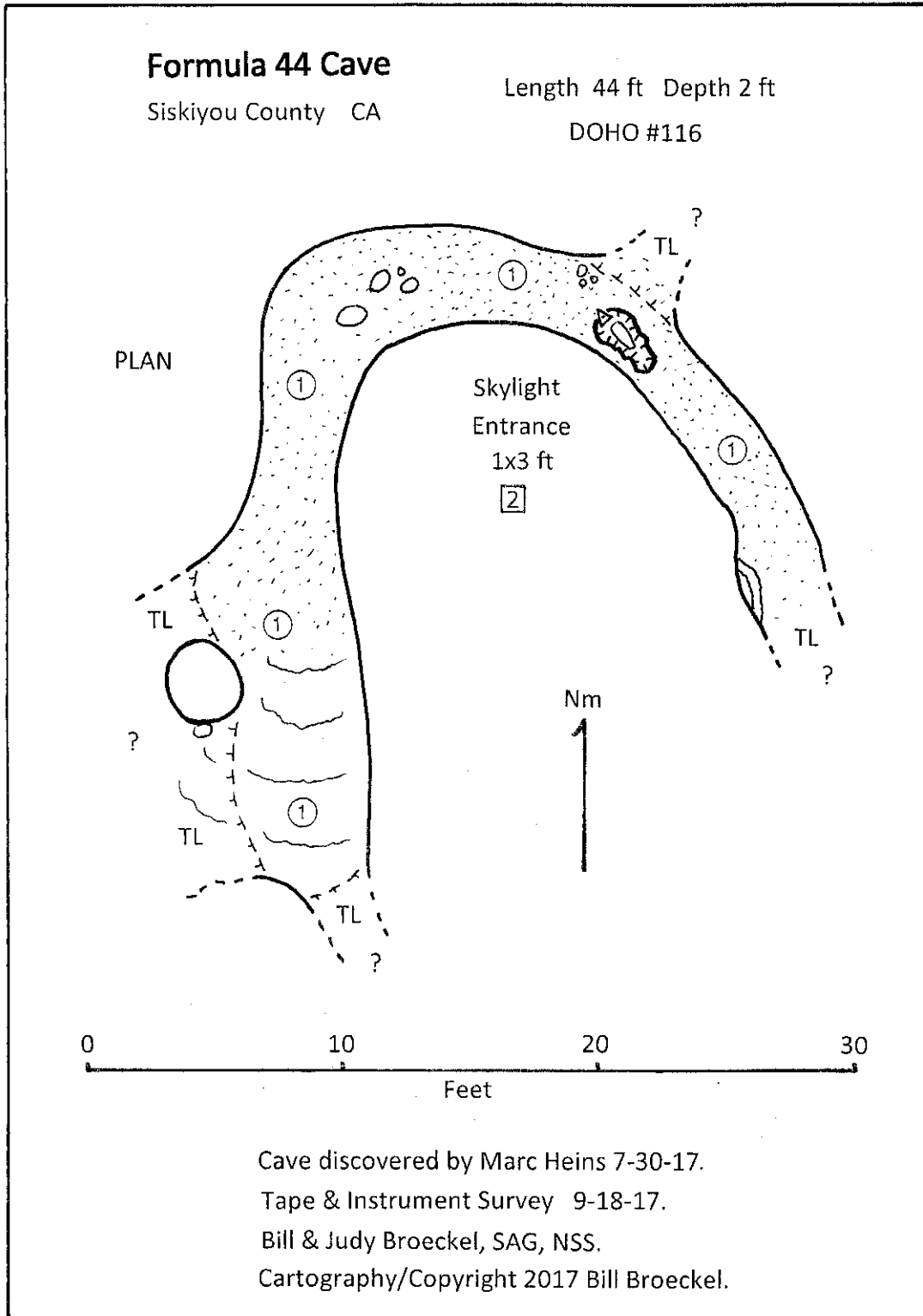


Judy Broeckel with Sushi Cave nearby.





Map: Sushi Cave



Map: Formula 44 Cave

**FORMULA 44 CAVE**

By Bill Broeckel

Formula 44 was an old hair product that has nothing whatsoever to do with this cave. When I added up the three survey shots, the sum total was 44 feet. For some reason I thought of the shampoo, or whatever it was, and so the cave was named.

Marc Heins saw the tiny entrance that same day we mapped over a thousand feet in Sushi Cave (7-30-17). We were running around, tracking down old caves, and checking things. I was hoping we could find something new, so I tried sliding into the little skylight. It was a tight fit, and I shredded my T-shirt in the process. Inside, the cave was high enough to crawl, about 22 feet that I could see. "It's a cave" I optimistically announced. Well, at least it deserved some probing and measuring. But not today, we had bigger fish to map. Sliding back out was even harder, and I shredded my shirt some more. Later on I found I was scratched up and had ant bites, but the yellow jackets were not causing trouble – summer in the Highlands.

Judy, and her little dog, came back here with me 9-18-17, a cool Fall day. I hammered off the most offending jagged nubbin, and had a much easier time with the entrance. Stretching tape west, the cave delightfully turned a sharp left. Alas, it soon proved too low, but went far enough to essentially double the length of the cave. Judy was glad she didn't have to go in. She handed me things and we stayed in voice contact. The dog, however, was impatient and wanted to wander around. So it was just as well the cave only went 44 feet. The entire cave was 1 foot high, except where it wasn't, and my hair stayed perfect the whole time. My shirt stayed good, the ants and yellow jackets were off duty, and all was well. **BB**



Entrance to Formula 44 Cave, survey tape about 6 inches for scale.

**BARNUM CAVE BAT WALK**

By Bighorn Broeckel

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 – This year's agency-led bat walk was a rain out. The bats sensed an incoming storm, and took this chance to cluster up in early season hibernation behavior. This was discovered by our cave scout (Liz Wolff), and a decision was made to cancel the cave tour portion of the event, in deference to the bats. Bats get first dibs on caves.

It got dark quick, and the rain began to fall and intensify. The 35 or so folks who showed up gamely drew near for the talks, and gradually everyone was more or less tucked under the small U.S.F.S. canopy erected near the cave entrance. The arrangement turned out to be very cozy and congenial. Liz Wolff reviewed bat biology, then Ray Miller interpreted his slowed down recordings of bat noises interspersed with his signature pithy and humorous anecdotes. Sam Cuenca (Forest Moderator) even let me have a chance to talk about lava tube geology. Ray later reminded me that the cave bearing lava flow of the valley originates from Little Deer Mountain, and not from Mount Shasta. Never mind, I was more anxious anyway to relate some things I ran across about the sex life of the Townsend's Big-Eared bats, a rather interesting topic. It was getting late now. Even though we didn't do the cave trip this year, the people seemed to be in a good mood and were understanding about it, and appreciated the efforts involved. **BB**

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

**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  
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