



Liz Wolff on sketch in frozen Cave 59. 12-18-18.

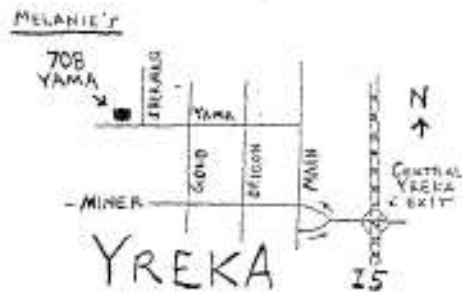
Inside: Lava Cave Reports

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 \$5 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 2019

March 22 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie's in Yreka.

Map to March Meeting



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

Liz Wolff brings us an article on one of those back burner caves, just waiting for the right day to get surveyed. Liz was doing book before I joined the Grotto and started caving way back when, and she still does. Liz was honored at the January meeting for many years of service to the Grotto as Chairman, and the baton was passed along to Steve Hobson. Dave Smith is Vice Chair, Tabitha Viner Secretary, and Melanie Jackson Treasurer. The February cave event is cancelled due to snow. We can give Pluto's Cave and others a rest on this El Nino winter. Maybe we will see you at the March meeting, though I think I'll be traveling myself. In the next SAG RAG we might be able to feature the new Grotto El Presidente Steve Hobson, in the Marble Mountains no less. Meanwhile, go ski or make a snow angel or something. **BB**

Dec 07, 2018 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm at Wolffs' in McCloud.

Present were: Bill Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Mike and Barbara Stufflebeam, Dave Smith, Doug and Tabitha Viner, and Jim and Liz Wolff.

Minutes: The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Website and E-RAG: Issue 37(5) is on the website.

SAG RAG Report: None.

Listserv: Angela Hooker has been added to the list.

Correspondence:

Notice from the Foundation for Preservation and Exploration of Caves with an invitation to join. Liz has their web address.

There is a webinar focused on responsibilities for persons caving with Scouts.

Hawkins Creek Road near McCloud Dam is closed due to slides.

2019 Calendar:

Jan 18-20	Meeting at Lava Beds.
Feb 22-23	No meeting. Shasta Valley or Hat Creek cave cleanups &/or skiing.
Mar 22-23	Meeting at Mel's in Yreka, caving activities tbd.
Apr 26-27	No meeting. Caving activities tbd.
May 24-27	Meeting location and activities tbd.
Jun 28-30	No meeting. Hat Creek camp out weekend.
Jul 19-20	Meeting at Wolff's, caving activities tbd.
Aug 30-Sept 2	No meeting, combined West & NW Regional, Bend area.
Sept 27	Meeting location tbd, rescue training & planning/prep.
Oct 12	SAG/SAR rescue training.
Oct 25-27	No meeting. Tehama caving. Gather at Dave's in Chico on Friday. Sleepover Friday and also Saturday if we cave Sunday.
Nov/Dec 6	Meeting at Broeckels', calendar, nominations, cookies.

Old Business: The draft Sag constitution and bylaws are ready to be released for grotto members to review and note changes they think it should have.

New Business:

Officer nominations for 2019 are: Chairman - Steve Hobson; Vice Chair - Dave Smith or Jim Wolff; Secretary - Tabitha Viner; Treasurer - Melanie Jackson. A ballot with space for additional nominations will go out soon.

Per the webinar, on caving trips with scouts the scout group leaders and cavers have overlapping responsibilities they need to be familiar with, relating to gear needs and safety concerns.

Trip Reports:

Dave Smith and Jeff McFarland visited Twisted Sister (365') and Verwoest (130') Caves in Tehama County on Nov. 3, taking measurements and photos for possible future surveys.

November 10 Doug, Liz and Jim continued the survey of Maze Cave in Labe along with Dean Hill and Garrett Jordan (an Oregon Caves intern), working a tight and grabby squeeze. They mapped 73' in about 4 ½ hours, while Matt Leissring and Heather McDonald (MLG) worked another side passage. The group later did indoor survey training at the RC.

Bill and Judy went to Hat Creek on December 6 to re-find Dustbin Cave (76') and Rockeater, both close to 3 Inch Rag Cave

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Dave Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

CAVE 59

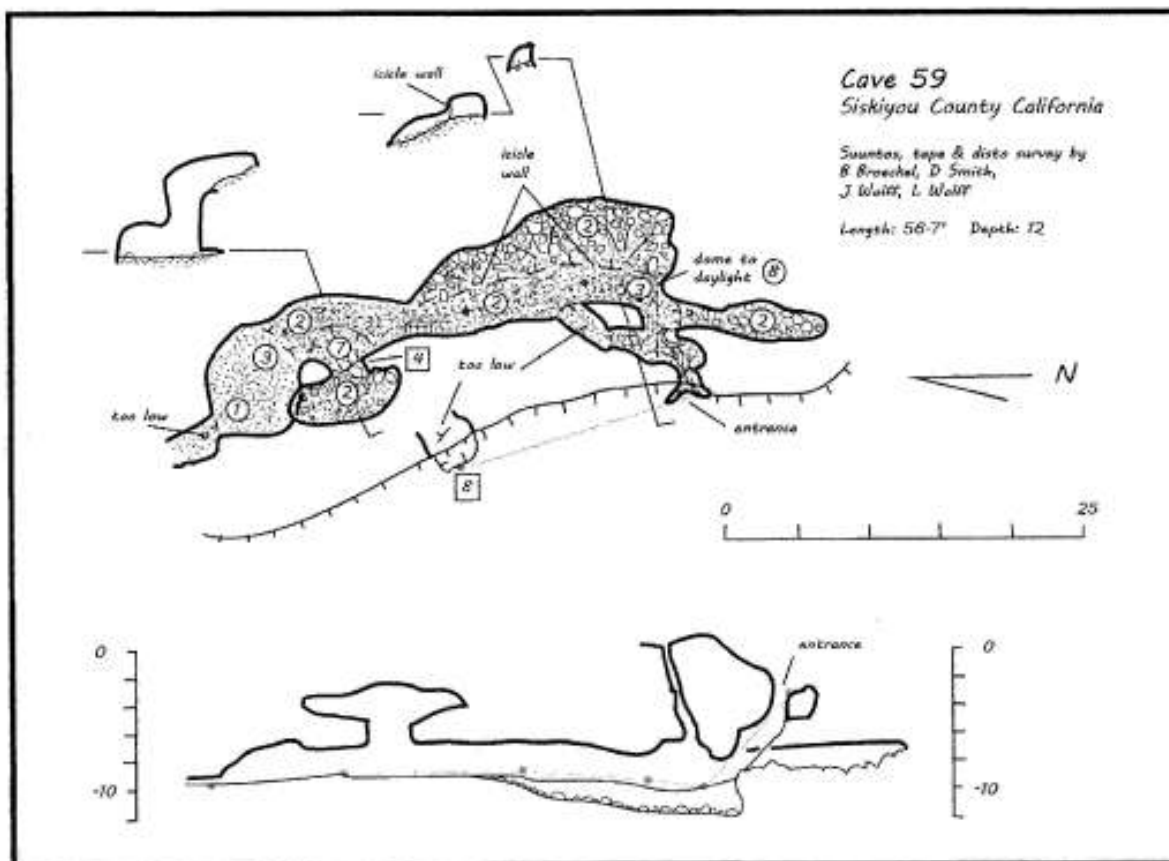
By Liz Wolff

Cave 59 was discovered and named by Ray Miller of the Shasta Area Grotto. It was the 59th cave he marked on his GPS, before GPS was commonly available. The cave is located in the side of the pressure ridge that contains Coke Bottle and Brown's wHole caves. It is not technically a lava tube but a void in the lava big enough to get into. The entrance is a near vertical slide that in "normal" years has a snow cone blocking human entry; it is well coated with pine needles. December 8th the intent of SAG members Bill Broeckel, Dave Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff was to survey this now-open cave.

The cave was cold with slight air flow from the south end, and a wall of clear ice draperies and stalactites. The cave floors are mostly detritus and dirt, and surprisingly dry. Most of the cave is two to three feet high with the exception of a dome into an upper level, dirt-floored room with a mouse midden. At one point a very narrow dome goes to the surface. The main level ends in a one foot wide, four inch high crawl that blows air and goes... Cave 59 survey totaled 56.7 feet and total depth is 12 feet.

After the survey of Cave 59 the small group went to Coke Bottle Cave as Dave had never been there. The trip was cut short when four hibernating big-eared bats were found.

LW



Map: Cave 59



Liz Wolff, Dave Smith, and Jim Wolff at Cave 59. 12-8-18.



The entrance to Cave 59 is small. 12-8-18.



Branched wall fungus in Cave 59. 12-8-18.



Two moths nose-to-nose in Cave 59. 12-8-18.

Armstrong's Stretch Plus

By Bighorn Broeckel

Of all God's creations, lava tube construction has got to be high on the list of interesting themes. In the due course of eruptive volcanic events, springs of liquid rock suitable for lava tubes appear on the surface of the earth. Tremendous subterranean circumstances contrive to force the stuff up through whatever weaknesses might be available in the earth's crust. If it was up to us to pump it out, it probably wouldn't happen so often. But no, it just happens naturally. Like water from an artesian well, the lava surges up and out of its vent. From here, gravity drainage ensues, and perhaps a new layer is added to the local shield volcano. But that's not all, folks. Under the right conditions, and a bit of cave caramel candy magic, drainage conduits are formed large enough to be explored by people. However, it's probably best if those would-be explorers wait until the cave is done baking, and has cooled off. Don't worry. In geology time, these lava tubes get formed really frequently, some even during our lifetimes.

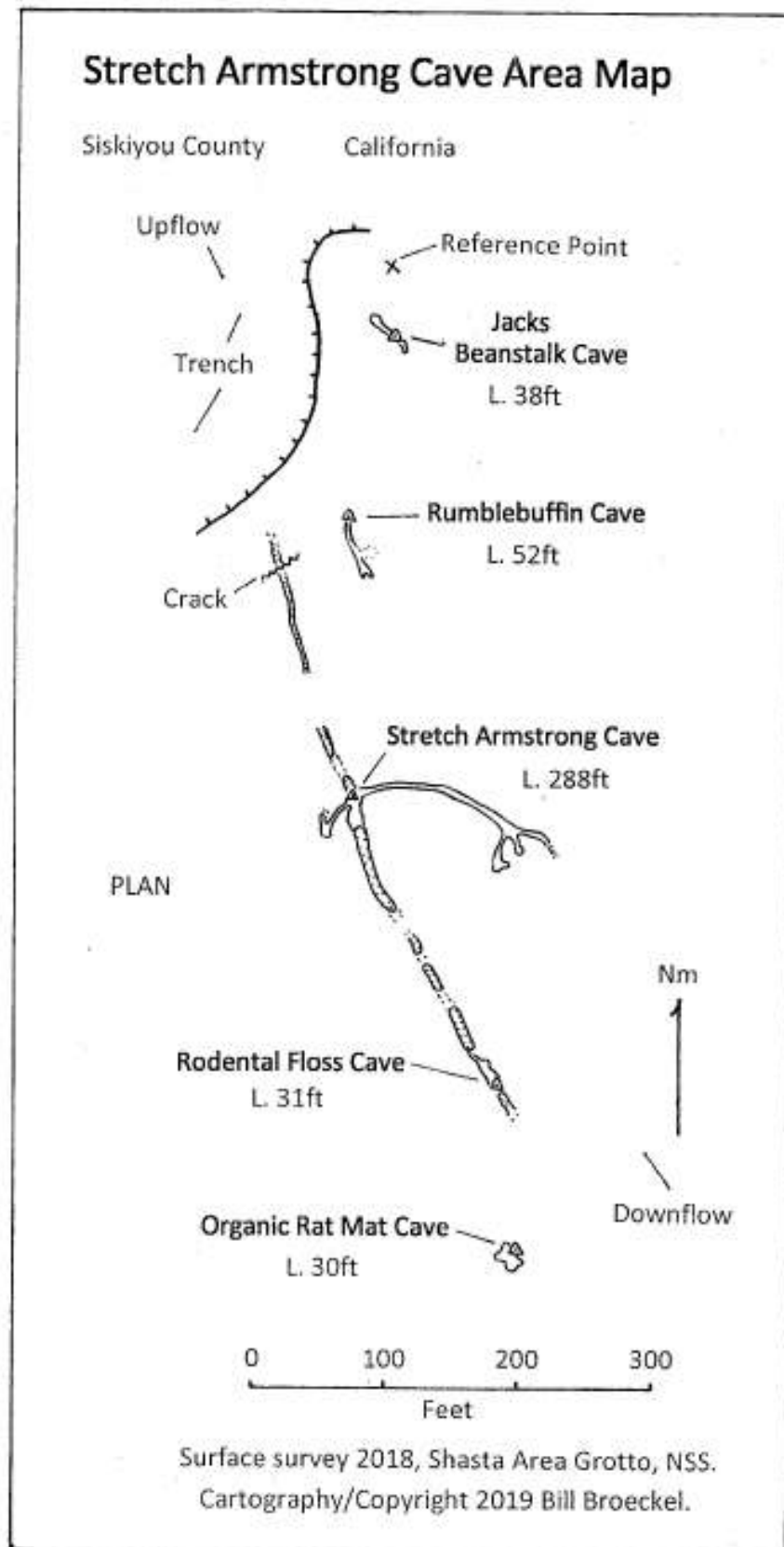
Now that's all fine and dandy, but there can be at least two complications. Firstly, what if everything was running smoothly, but then the amount of lava flowing out of the vent *suddenly increased*. Like a lot. Well, the lava would spill out of the various containments. Maybe it would blub right out of an entire crater, or overflow the sides of its trench, like a flooding river goes over its banks. Or it might just bust free from its lava tube, like the Incredible Hulk. Or all three could happen together. It would probably spread around and make a big mess. When we lived in Chicago, our place had a sump vent in the floor of the washroom. During heavy rains, that thing would well up with dirty water, and ultimately run out into the back yard. Streets would flood, cars would end up in deep water; that sort of thing was actually routine back there. The point is that lava tube making is not always neat and tidy.

A second complication can happen during such a volatile and dynamic process as an erupting volcano. Something might shift, collapse, or a big boulder or piece breaks loose, and suddenly the lava conduit is blocked. So all that rushing lava has to go somewhere else, such as out the side, over the top, or back up and around another way. Here we go again. Undergrads plugging the drains in the group shower, causing the entire dorm to flood, comes to mind (yeah, that really happened).

A third scenario might be the first and the second happening at the same time. A powerful surge comes along, and that cracks off a large rock, plugs a tube, and there you have it, a double whammy. Imagine an undergrad sitting on the sump vent during a big storm. He gets lifted off his spot, his body plugs the outlet to the back yard, so this time the dirty water goes through the kitchen and the living room, and out the front door.

Well, my friends, such a flood seems to have occurred in the area map here presented. The surge appears to have spilled over the side of a trench, perhaps as a wide sheet flow of lava. But there was some volume and duration to the surge, and the trench edge was irregular. So the simple sheet flow was able to organize and focus enough to form five small lava tubes. The slope is from north to south. The upper two caves appear to be parallels, while the other three seem to line up along a "mini-trench". The dotted lines in the mini-trench represent poor, unhappy lava tube segments deemed too short to qualify as real caves, the pinocchios of the lava fields. These fake caves may look good from the outside but they don't go. However, sometimes a cave cricket may be found.

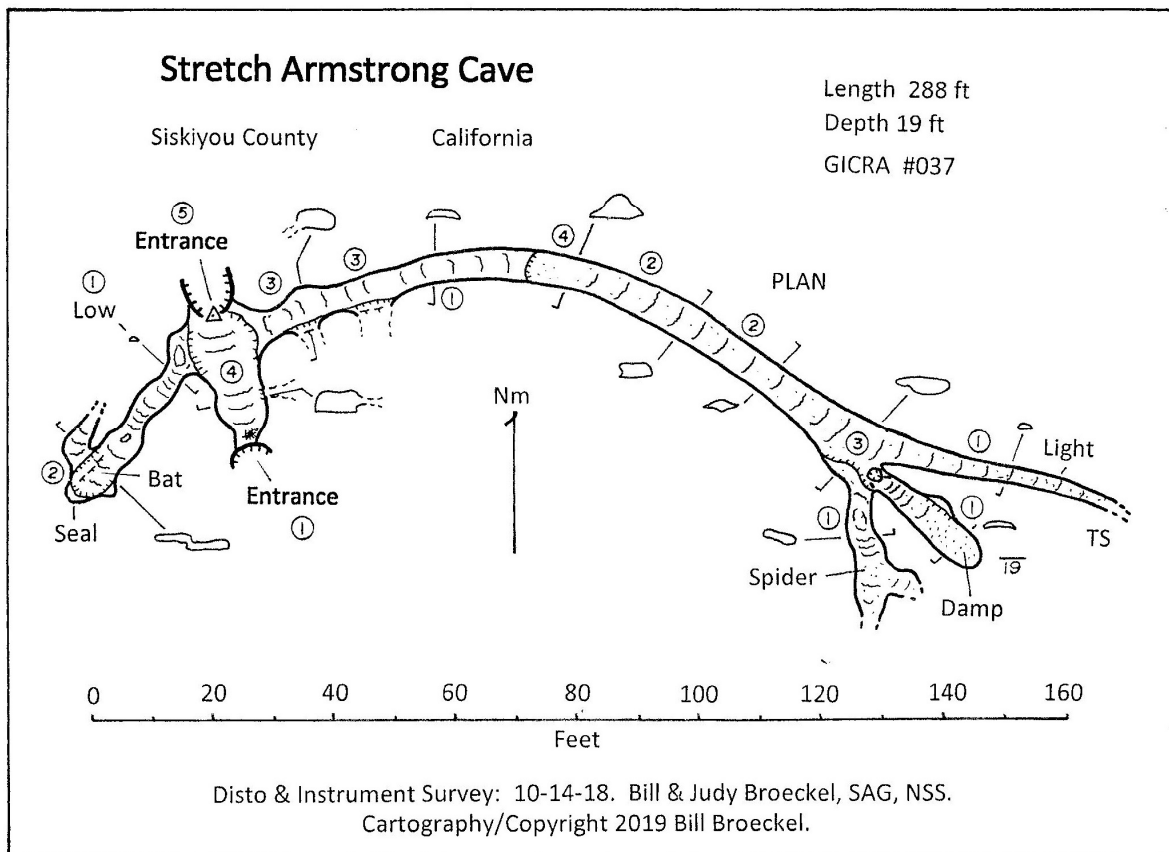
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Map: Stretch Armstrong Cave Area: Jacks Beanstalk Cave, Organic Rat Mat Cave, Rodental Floss Cave, Rumblebuffin Cave, Stretch Armstrong Cave



Stretch Armstrong Cave entrance. 10-14-18.



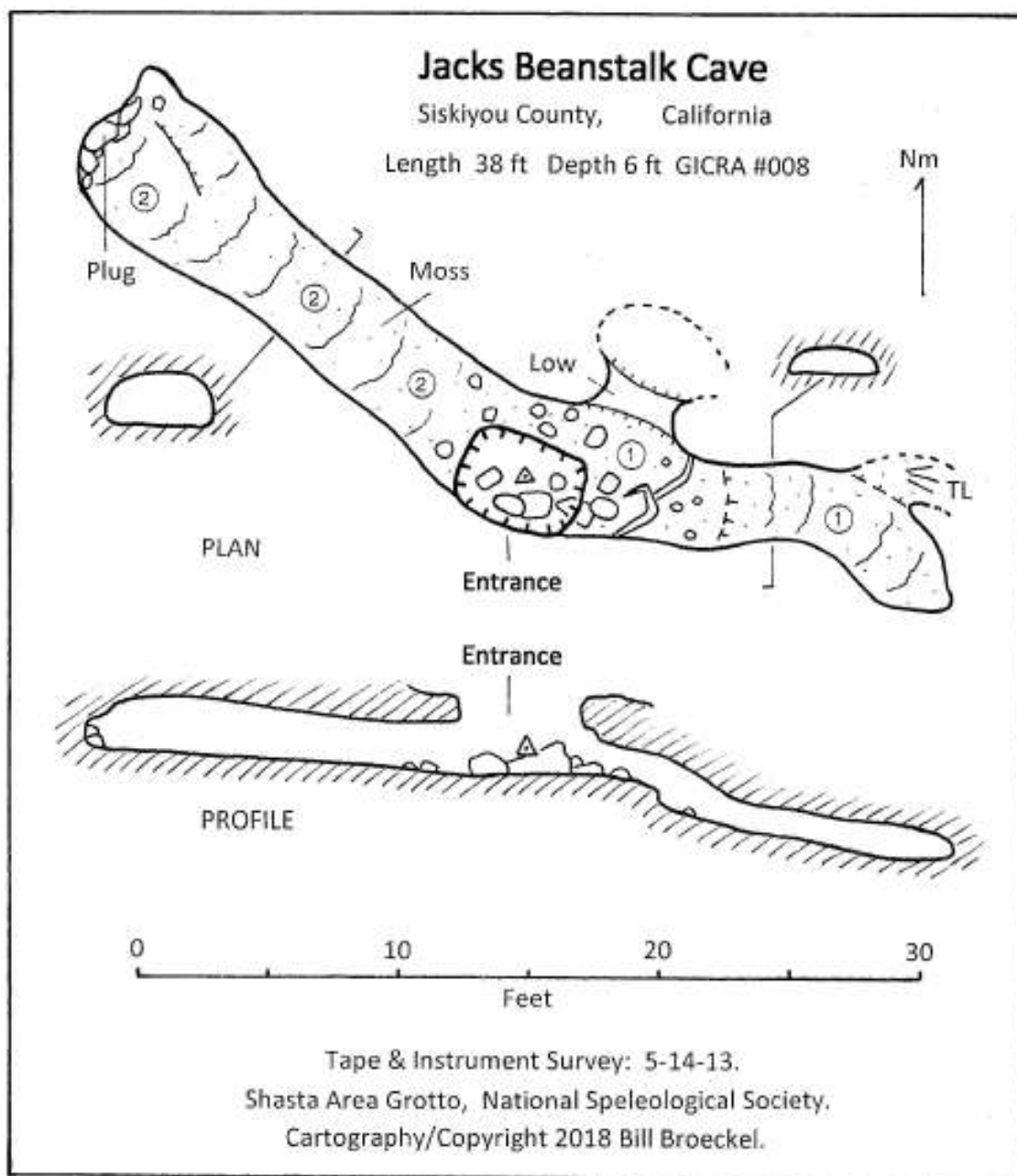
Map: Stretch Armstrong Cave



Stretch Armstrong Cave interior. 10-14-18.



Stretch Armstrong Cave interior. 10-14-18.



Map: Jacks Beanstalk Cave

Never mind the pretend caves. The upper three caves were fun to explore, the two rat caves down below, not so much. Stretch Armstrong was by far the longest and best of the bunch. The long "arm", or side passage, takes off in a radical direction inexplicable to us. So, all of this is to provide context revealing the oddity of Stretch Armstrong's long three-fingered arm.

Many other overflow scenarios await to be explored and described, and even discovered, lurking along the sides of the more major manifestations. Be advised to keep an open mind, and to expect the unexpected. Even these little caves can present interesting questions and surprising features.

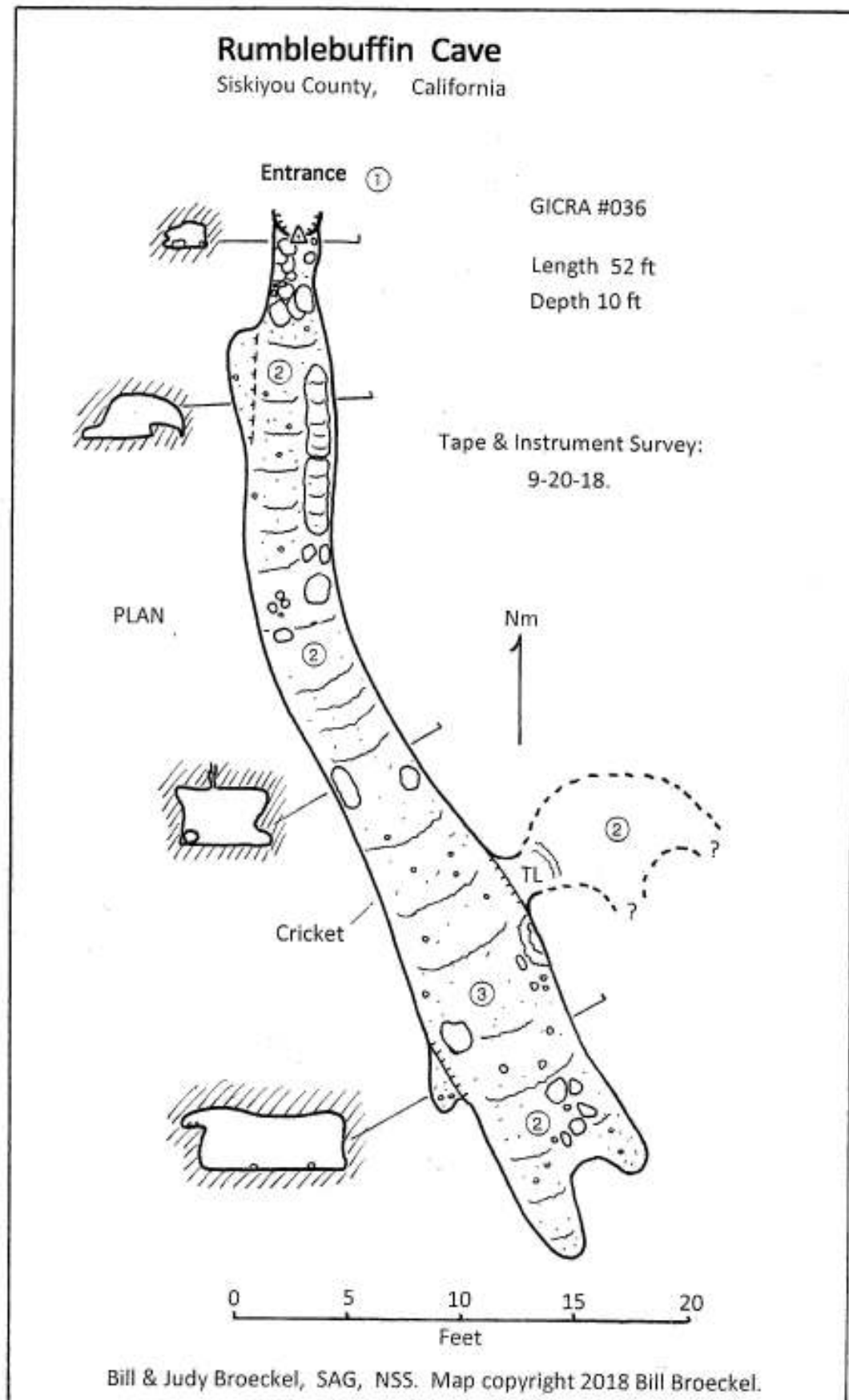
BB



Jacks Beanstalk Cave entrance. 5-14-13.



Jacks Beanstalk Cave – Interior looking downflow to the skylight entrance. 5-14-13.



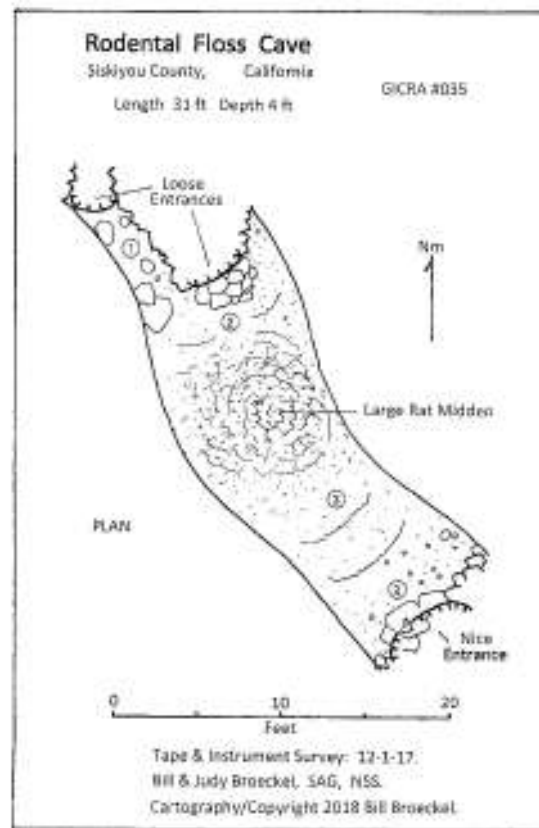
Map: Rumblebuffin Cave



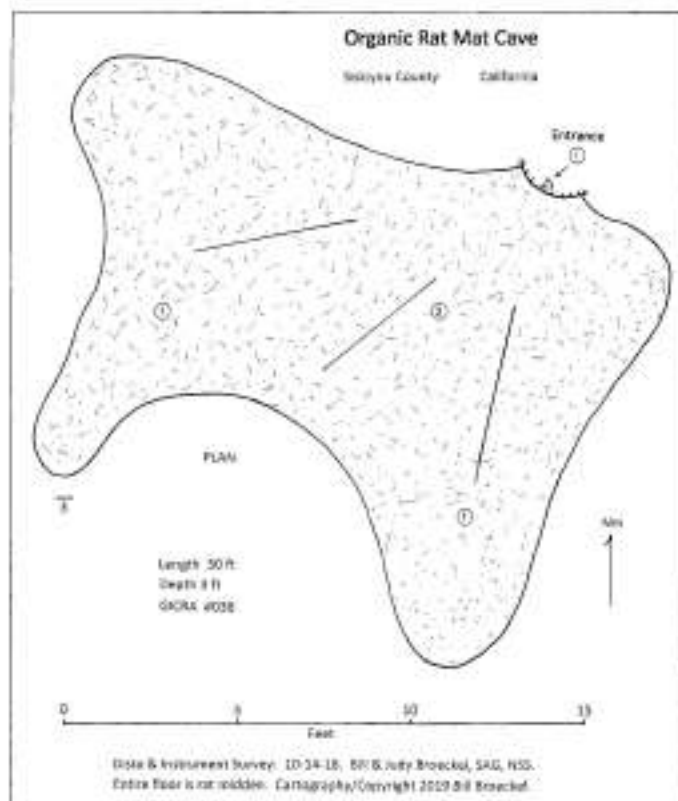
Rumblebuffin Cave entrance. 9-20-18.



Rumblebuffin Cave interior. 9-20-18.



Map: Rodental Floss Cave



Map: Organic Rat Mat Cave



Jacks Beanstalk Cave entrance. 5-14-13.



Rodental Floss Cave entrance. 12-1-17.
(Organic Rat Mat Cave photo unavailable at this time.)



Liz Wolff sketching at base of entrance drop in Cave 59. 12-18-18.

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TO: