



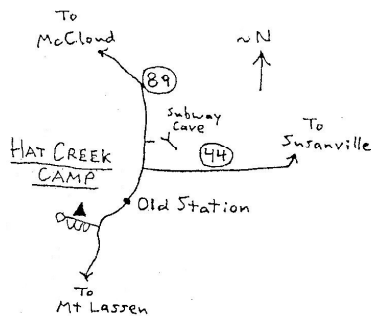
Freddie Caver had to think about the badge rule for a minute, you know, like before he actually went in.

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>>.

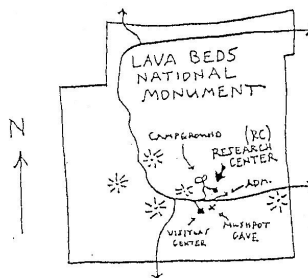
CAVER CALENDAR 2019

- June 17-21 NSS Convention, Cookeville TN.
 June 28-30 Hat Creek Camp-out.
 July 4-8 Lava Beds with SAG and CRF.
 July 19 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolffs' in McCloud.

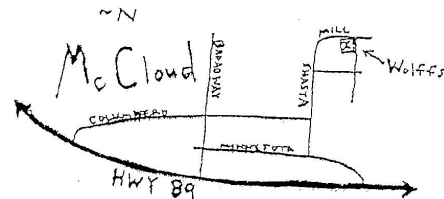
Maps to Events



JUNE 28-30



JULY 4-8



JULY 19

SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Here is another quick follow-up issue of the SAG RAG to help you fill in your summer plans. Check Tabitha's meeting minutes for a good outlook schedule of upcoming grotto meetings and events. Tabitha Viner is our debutante SAG secretary – anyone with the initials T.V. must be something of a celebrity – and we are fortunate to have her in grotto executive service. Also, check Joel Despain's update on plans for impending cave survey trips to remote hiking speleodestinations deep in the Klamath Mountains. These are rare opportunities to see and help document some awesome caves. Finally, since it is convention time, here is a run-down on a cave trip at last year's Montana Convention. If you are going to Tennessee for this year's convention, better put down the SAG RAG and get out there. It already started. **BB**

Shasta Area Grotto – Meeting

Date: 25 May 2019

Location: Lava Beds National Monument, Research Center

Present: Tabitha Viner, Doug Viner, Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Bill Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Heather McDonald, Stephen Kandra (new member), Pat Seiser (new member), Matt Bowers, Angela Hooker, David Martin, Bill Devereaux, Matt Leissring

Meeting called to order at 7:36pm

Presiding: Steve Hobson

Minutes from the 22 March 2019 meeting were accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- \$1125 past and present amount.
- Steve Hobson and Melanie Jackson have tried to update the bank accounts to reflect the current treasurer. The bank rules have changed and the account was suspended without notification to the Grotto. Paperwork is on the way for Melanie and Dave Smith to sign. The paperwork will also need to be notarized.
- Melanie has \$116 in cash from membership dues.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG

- Dave Smith was not present – no report.

SAG RAG REPORT

- Bill Broeckel reports that the SAG Rag e-version may be late because Dave Smith is out of town. Hard copies delivered by snail mail should be in mailboxes.
- Bill will author an NSS trip report for publication in an upcoming SAG Rag.

LISTSERV

- Steve requests Matt Bowers and Pat Seizer be added to the Listserv. EC approves the move.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Brad Rust has requested to go to Tombstone. See further details in NEW BUSINESS.
- Steve Knutsen talked to a publisher about caving in the Marbles.
- Liz Wolff got an email from Tom Rickman who has data loggers keeping temperature and humidity data in three caves in Lassen National Forest. Liz has the data for those who are interested.

2019 CALENDAR

- May 24-27 (Memorial Day Weekend) caving at LABE; grotto meeting Saturday evening.
- June 28-30 No meeting; Hat Creek camp out weekend.
- July 19-20 Meeting at Wolffs'; tentatively hiking/caving on Tombstone Mountain with Brad Rust.
- Aug 30-Sept 2 No meeting; combined West & NW Regional Meeting in the Bend area (Redmond OR).
- Sept 27-28 Meeting at Steve Hobson's; rescue training & planning/prep.
- Oct 12 SAG/SAR rescue training; location TBD.
- Oct 25-27 No meeting; Tehama caving, gather at Dave's in Chico on Friday. Sleepover Friday and also Saturday if we cave Sunday.
- Dec 6 Meeting at Broeckels'; calendar, nominations, cookies.

continued

OLD BUSINESS

- Mules and Marbles - David Weaver is the point of contact. The event will be over the 4th of July and is a different time period than last year.
- Dave Smith filed the IO Report back in February.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was extensive discussion – led by Matt Bowers and Pat Seizer of NSS – of SAG hosting or co-hosting the NSS Convention in 2021 in northern California. Joel Despain is also part of the discussion within NSS. In general, local hosting grottos set up cave trips, and NSS may pull trip leaders from other grottos. The NSS offers education, logistical support, registration, WNS decon station, and other activities. The NSS will work with feds to clear cave access. WNS could potentially cause mass cave closures between now and summer 2021, but Pat and Matt will try to mitigate that. Registration and cave trip sign-up will be entirely online. Approximately 1000 cavers attend the conventions. The time period is tentatively set for early July.
 - NSS has pursued the College of the Siskiyous in Weed as a venue. Hotel space in Weed is scanty, but the college has offered dorm space.
 - Joel Despain will write the guidebook. Pat will compile the technical abstract book (educational program).
 - During convention, trips are only during the day and not overnight. There are also pre and post trips, which may be overnights. The Convention could fall after the Marbles trip.
 - SAG membership present was in support of hosting the 2021 Convention. The NSS needs a letter from the hosting grotto expressing support. Steve Hobson will provide the letter based on a template to be provided by Matt Bowers.
 - Jim Wolff, Bill Broeckel, and Liz Wolff formed an ad hoc committee to come up with a short list of caves for the convention. They will also identify caves that will not be visited or advertised. After this initial determination, others in the grotto will step in to map, photograph, and learn the caves.
 - Approval by the NSS board of governors of the proposed plan to host the NSS Convention in Weed, CA in 2021 will occur, hopefully, at the end of the summer.
- Membership requirements, as outlined in the By-laws and Constitution, were discussed. It was agreed amongst those present that a “cave trip” involves caving on one day. Caving on adjacent or two separated days - even within the same caving event - equals two “cave trips”.
- There was a request from the Western Region to place Matt Bowers on the SAG Listserv. The motion was approved.
- Matt Bowers shared that the NSS has data loggers that grottos can borrow for projects.
- Liz Wolff will be going to the Western Regional over Labor Day.
- KTMS is not going through Duane. [I think I missed the bubble on this item]
- Morley Hardaker – long-time MLG treasurer – has died.
- Emergency personnel (Stephen Kandra and Angela Hooker) were encouraged to attend the SAR training planning meeting in September. This event needs as much involvement from SAG as possible.
- Stephen Kandra paid the required dues and has fulfilled the SAG membership requirements.
- Angela Hooker and Melanie Jackson will get together to digitize and manage the membership applications.
- Steve Hobson and Jim Wolff will investigate the road to Tombstone next weekend. If the road is passable, a trip will be scheduled before the potential fire season. Steve Hobson will put out a notification on the listserv to check for interest.
- Pat Seizer may set up cave surveys on federal lands and will be reaching out to local grottos for help.

continued

TRIP REPORTS

- Bill Broeckel surveyed a Lava Beds cave today. He connected two caves to make an 84' cave.
- Today, Stephen Kandra, Pat Seizer, Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, Dave, Arly and Bree went to Rivulet and Dog caves. They surveyed 1/10 of Rivulet. Entrances in Rivulet are small, but there is walking passage. Dog cave is well-decorated.
- Angela Hooker went to Dry Creek cave in OR. There is 3000' elevation gain in 2 miles with poison oak. The cave is not big, but is a spiritual site for Native Americans.
- Bill Broeckel went to Monkey Island in Thailand. The resident non-human primates prevented his entrance into the cave.

ACTION ITEMS

- Liz Wolff to send an email to Tom Rickman to get him to trip in June.
- Tabitha Viner to update the activity dates to the SAG Listserv.
- Doug Viner to put add new members and Matt Bowers to the Listserv.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm
Minutes taken by Tabitha Viner

TV



Wagners Cave. 8-3-18.

WAGNERS CAVE, MONTANA

By Bighorn Broeckel

A long drive brought me to Helena, Montana, or nearly so. Getting late and tired, I plunked down on the continental divide above Helena. Just as I was falling asleep, I heard a noise and suddenly remembered. This was grizzly bear country! OK, just forget about it. Next thing I knew, the sun was up and outside it was either Heaven, Hell, or Montana. The heaven possibility was a long shot. Turned out to be Montana. The NSS Convention newsletter, however, was called Helena Handbasket.

At the Howdy Party, I met the Marlboro Man and asked him how many bear maulings had occurred, you know, in the campground where many of us were staying. He said he didn't know, which I took as a good sign. He could have said something like "too many to count" or "we lost track". I never did buy the recommended bear spray can. In the face of a charging bear, you actually only have a second or two to activate. Also, I was afraid I might misread it later and think it was "hair spray" for my poor wife. As you get older, you have to watch out for stuff like that. By the way, if you go to Canada with your bear spray, you need to declare it as just that – "bear spray". If you say "pepper spray" they assume it's for humans and will confiscate it as a disallowed weapon. If you say "hair spray", I bet they would still take it away.

Anyway, there were some easy "horizontal" caves featured for convention, so I signed up for two of those and looked forward to some nice, relaxing cave tours. Wagners Cave was Thursday and was about a two hour drive from Helena. Montana is a big state, but the 80 MPH speed limits on the city-to-city freeways help people get around quicker, except in cases of breakdowns, wrecks, or construction. We avoided most of that and soon found ourselves on a very short jeep road ending in a small but pretty meadow, our trailhead.

Wagners turned out to be a truly nice and relaxing cave, very similar to Injun Joe's Cave on Tom Sawyer's Island in Disneyland, minus the artificial lights. However, the hike to and from Wagners was the more adventurous part, giving credence to one of my favorite proverbs ("Dude, it's not the caves that scare me, it's the outside world"). First there was the river crossing. However, coming back, I made a cool discovery. Velcro-strapped knee pads can make for quite serviceable water shoes. This was followed by group kudos for improvisation, then photos for social media, but then later some weird messages on my debut as a foot model. My friends, we live in strange times.

Next we traversed a blow-down. We hurdled many a fallen tree, perhaps knocked down by small winter avalanches off the steep slopes. All this was to stay on public access and avoid upsetting the landed locals. Speaking of slippery slopes, we soon headed up on a rough network of steep trails. This network consolidated into a chute of loose rocks and gravel, getting progressively steeper and steeper. Then just when it was getting really crazy, we reached the bottom of a large diameter hand-line fixed to a big tree (see photo). I managed to pull myself up

continued



Large diameter handline up to Wagners Cave. 8-3-18.

to what looked like a great cave entrance. But no! Up we go further to the very top of the handline, over some 20 feet of nearly vertical rock climb to reach – another really great cave entrance (see photo). This one was the real deal. At this point, we could now actually relax and enjoy what indeed turned out to be a most perfectly horizontal of caves.

Campbell (1978) describes Wagners as “horizontal”, “nearly 500 feet”, and “developed in Madison group carbonate rocks”. Hansen (1991) mentions an “alcove with numerous soda straws” (see photo) in the Lake Missoula Grotto Newsletter 1:7, possibly with the cartoon showing soda straws in different flavors such as orange, lemon-lime or grape, I suppose to go along with Campbell’s carbonated rocks. Hansen offers further details about the cave: “A steep hill has to be climbed to reach the entrance, which is covered with boulders. Access on the belly is required to get into the big room”. Bodenhamer (2018) in the Convention Guidebook, gives lots of detail including a map by Cory, Warner, and Citta (2002) showing 595.5 feet of passage. All 3 authors say that Wagners is well decorated but vandalized (see photos).

continued



Wagners Cave: entrance (above) and soda straw room (below). 8-3-18.





Wagners Cave. 8-3-18.

The entrance crawl was easy enough, especially if you cast a blind eye to the various organics, middens, and rouge bands of arachno-gangs along the way. After that, it was smooth sailing through a long dream-like walking passage over damp, soft and even floors. There was just one spot where we had to lay down and slide through, and it was a fun and easy slide as if placed there for entertainment and photo-op purposes. So it really was as advertised, a lovely and pleasant cave, once you got into it.

We all made it back to convention safe and sound, our lives enriched. Maybe later I'll write about the other easy cave trip. For more on Wagners Cave, visit the Northern Rocky Mountains Grotto website, and look for the Wagners trip report from 2016. **BB**

Re: Summer and fall backpack cave survey in the Klamaths

Joel Despain

On Thu, May 30, 2019 at 11:16 AM Joel Despain wrote:

Hi All: I am beginning to make plans for backpacking and caving at two great caves this summer – Paul Gibson (PGC) and Scorpion way up here in the Northstate. I will provide a lot more information later on. For now I will just describe the caves for those that have not been there and to whet everyone's appetite. And I will attach the maps so far, too (zoom in for the detail). Also do note that for both caves we usually make it a long weekend. It is a long drive and hiking takes time, so we usually stay an extra day or two or even three. You do not have to stay that long, but some people might.

Caves

PGC: We have been surveying here for several years, but did not make it out last year. About a five mile hike with some steep off trail, but not too bad. We have a good route figured out.

The hiking trail has burned multiple times (although there is still some good old-growth left) making for brush on the trail part of the hike. We will want to bring the pruning tools. We are beginning to wrap up the survey of the cave, but more than 20 leads remain. PGC is about a mile long with two entrances. It is a great cave with large rooms, very nice speleothems (pearls, curtains, etc.) one of the most scenic stream canyons I have ever seen (stark white), many deep blue lakes, fun, round bedrock tubes, multiple mazes and lots of fun movement and climbing around. A real jungle gym. Survey-wise, we have 1) multiple smaller virgin leads near the new, large room we found, Hall of the Mountain King, 2) a tight hole to a weird downclimb that leads to much larger, going passage, 3) mop up in the wet but scenic downstream maze and 4) still the lake and several other passages in the 2013 extension that we surveyed part of in 2015.

Scorpion: (The original name was "Hidden Beauty", but the cavers thought that name would attract unwanted interest in a delicate cave.) New project started last November. Very easy hike (maybe two miles) from the east to a pretty little tarn with lots of flowers for camping. Coming from the coast the hike is a bit longer from a different trail head. Very scenic hikes in. Big views and great forests. Another pretty and fun cave. Vertical with numerous, short, scenic drops, great formations and bedrock features, fun mazes and movement. The cave is on multiple levels connected by giant cracks and fractures. Each level is quite different from the others. It is like visiting multiple caves on one trip. No streams and maybe one lake in the cave. We only surveyed a small part of the cave last fall. Lots more to do.

continued

Timing

As you may have heard, I am starting a new job with NCKRI and that will eat up part of my summer. And we have had a wet year. So, I am proposing that we start looking at weekends in late July, August, September and October. I am hoping to do two trips to each cave. Open weekends for me during that time:

July 20-21 and 27-28

August: All weekends

September: Probably no weekends for me (I am teaching a class on the weekends)

October: 5-6, 19-20 and 26-27

If you want to come along please let me know which cave and what weekends might work best for you.

If other cavers you know are interested, feel free to share this email with individuals. But please do not post it to any email lists or social media of any kind.

I will continue to plan and keep you all informed via future email.

I am sure looking forward to some fun caving in the beautiful Klamath Mountains this summer! I hope you can join us.

Thanks everyone and enjoy the day,

Joel

Sat 6/8/2019 9:28 AM

Hola Amigos: Thanks for everyone's dates and availability. I would like to schedule a Scorpion Cave trip over the July 20 and 21 weekend and a Paul Gibson trip the weekend of August 10 and 11. Please mark your calendars. I will be sending along more information on where and what in a few days.

Have a great weekend all. It looks the last spring weather before summer's heat sets in.

Take good care all and thank you for supporting these caving projects!

Joel

JD



Wagners Cave. 8-3-18.

SAG RAG
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STAMP

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