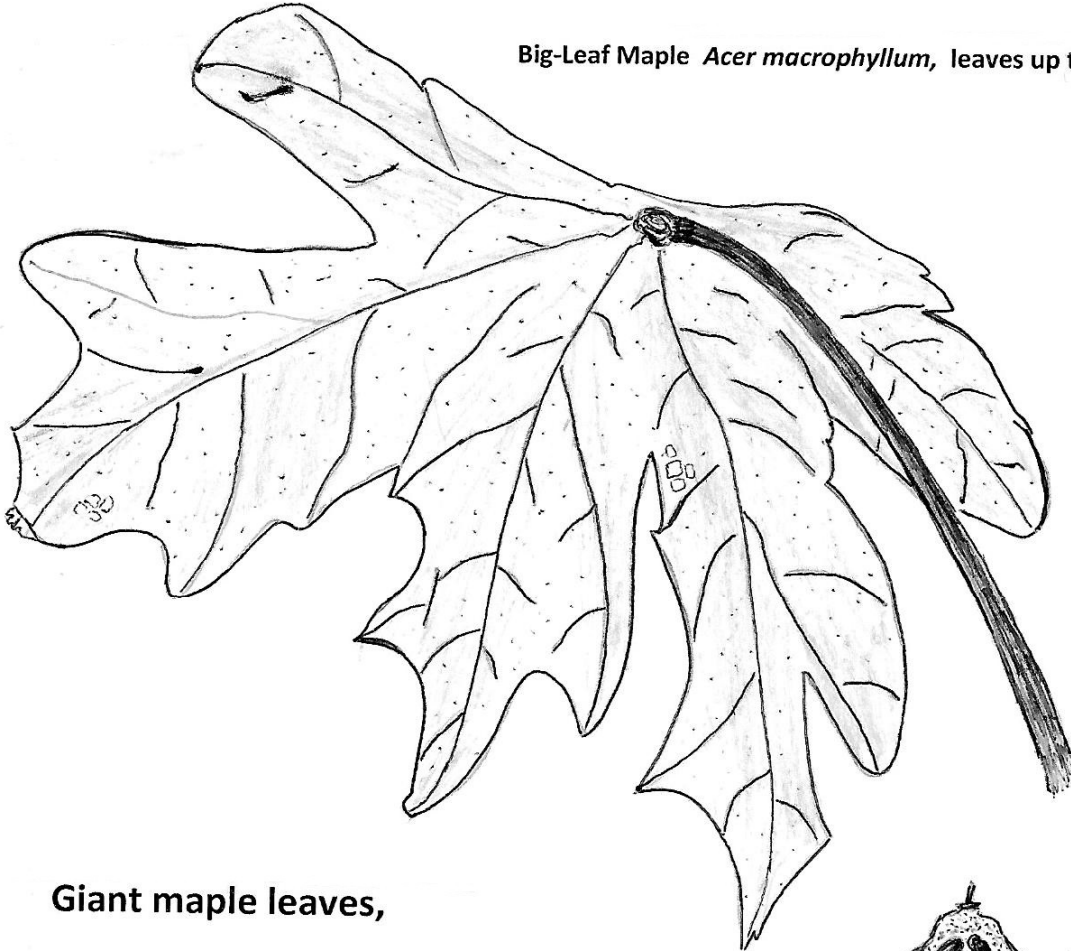


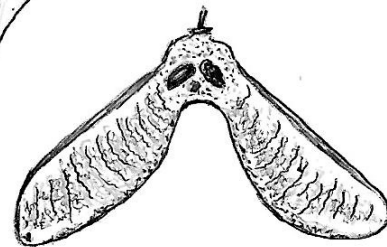
sag rag

39:2 Mar-Apr 2020

Big-Leaf Maple *Acer macrophyllum*, leaves up to 25cm.



Giant maple leaves,
drifting soft along the path,
fall in the Marbles.

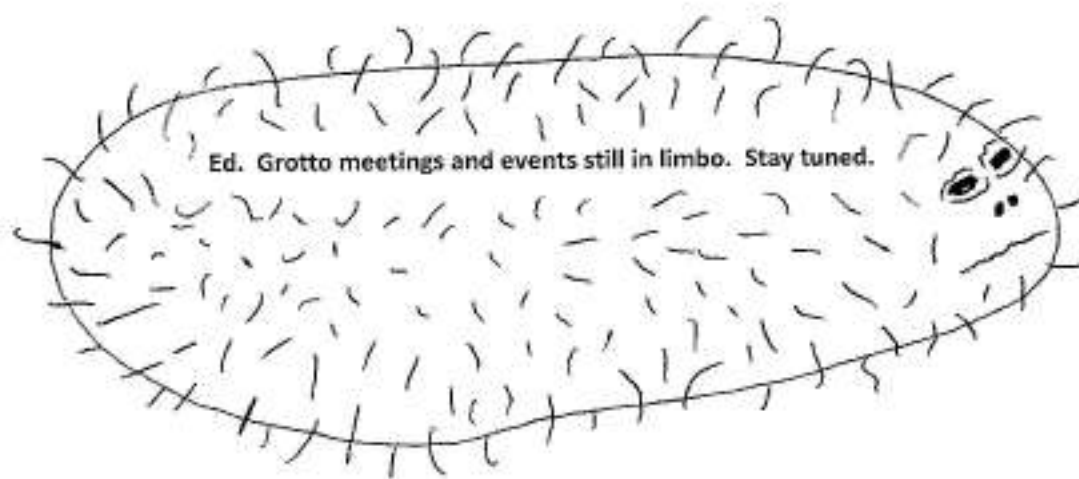


Winged seed

Inside: Marbles 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 \$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>>.

CAVE CALENDAR



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

We have a correction to make from an error in the last SAG RAG. Tom Rickman sends along a kind note regarding Shasta County Caves #67 and #101 (101 Dalmatians Cave), and their discovery. Tom writes "Jeff McFarland and his sister Corrie were the two who first discovered both 101 and 67." Speaking of #67, I'm hoping to get a survey team into that cave, maybe sometime this Fall, or maybe after the Weed Convention, when things settle down. Liz Wolff has been busy with field work gathering information for the convention guidebook and cave trips, due soon for summer 2021. These trips are in keeping with the spirit of Geary Schindel's presidential advice to all members of the NSS, to wit, "Hiking or ridge-walking with housemates may be an acceptable undertaking". Personally, I have tried to live extra healthy lately to increase my chances of surviving this dangerous virus, should it come my way. In keeping with such an ambition, one of Schindel's further comments stood forth. "Getting out and getting fresh air and sunshine, where allowed, can be good for your health and your soul." There are many places still open to the public, with plenty of distance away from the nearest stranger. We have learned to pump gas, pack lunches, and pee in the woods so as to avoid all possible contact with anybody else's viruses, and live an active life being out of doors nearly every day. Isolation can be found inside or outside. My wish for all reading this is safety, prosperity and health, including mental, social, and spiritual health in particular. Don't worry, be happy. **BB**

January 24, 2020 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 p.m. at Melanie's in Yreka

Present were: Steve Hobson, presiding, Melanie Jackson, CJ & Kit McKinley, Dave Smith, Barbara & Mike Stufflebeam, Mike & Pat Witt, and Liz Wolff

Minutes from the December meeting were accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The current balance is unchanged from December, at \$1,097.94, plus \$10.00 in dues not yet deposited.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: Both are fine; Angela will contact us about progress in adapting the membership application for the website.

SAG RAG REPORT: None.

LISTSERV REPORT: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Joel Despain will be leading one more Paul Gibson survey trip. He also wants to do APC trips soon. The cave and its environs have changed since last year's fires.
- THE S.E. Cave Conservancy is seeking donations for purchasing Cyclops Cave in Virginia. The grotto voted to send them \$250.
- We have been contacted by Nolan Marshall at Humboldt State, who is planning to attend some of our upcoming meetings. He has been a guide at Crystal Cave. Chavon Pryor, who caved with the Stufflebeams, has also expressed interest in SAG.
- David Snyder, an archaeologist for the BLM in Alturas, contacted the grotto about paint in Big and Popcorn Caves, probably from about 7 years ago.

2020 CALENDAR:

- May 29-31 Hat Creek camp out – Scouting for convention caves.
- June 19-20 SAG Meeting Fri at 7:30 at Stufflebeams'; caving activity TBD.
- July 24-26 Campout and SAG meeting at Medicine Lake Highlands. (Wolffs will be absent.)
- Aug. 28-29 SAG Meeting Fri at 7:30 at Wolff's; caving activity TBD.
- Sept 4-9 A Marbles trip with mules packing in on the 4th and out on the 9th is planned, contact Steve.
- Sept.25-26 SAG Meeting Fri at 7:30 at Steve's; preparations Saturday for SAR training (10 Oct).
- Oct. 23-24 SAG Meeting Fri at 7:30 at Melanie's; caving activity TBD.
- Dec 4 (1st Fri.) SAG Meeting at Broeckel's with cookies, officer nominations, and 2021 scheduling.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Officers for 2020 were elected as nominated. Chair: Steve Hobson; Vice Chair: Barbara Stufflebeam; Secretary: Dave Smith; Treasurer: Melanie Jackson. The votes were unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Plans for cave trips are underway (See NSS 2021 CONVENTION heading for convention details.)

continued

NSS 2021 CONVENTION:

- Liz is putting together an initial list of caves for guided and self-guided cave trips during the convention, and caves to note in convention materials. The list will need to be shortened to caves within about 1½ hour drive times by safe roads, and that don't present serious hazards to cavers. serious hazards
- Dave, Melanie and CJ will work on cave descriptions to include in NSS materials.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Doug will add Mike Spiess and the McKinleys to the listserv.
- Dave will finish the update of the annual IO report for the NSS.
- Dave will start assembling SAG cave articles for the cave description work.

TRIP REPORTS:

- On January 9 Mike and Barbara visited Klaydo Cave with Chavon Pryor, her daughter Kalaili Day, and June Mitchell. Chavon may be interested in joining the grotto.
- On Sunday 1-12 Mike and Barbara visited Boy Scout Cave and Blanchet Cave, along with two friends, Bill and Tori Berry, and Steve Hobson. Near the bottom of Blanchet the floor gave way under Mike, dropping him into the cave stream with a dislocated shoulder, flipped clavicle, and 1" dent in his cave helmet. With Steve in charge, Barbara and Tori belayed Mike from the surface while Steve supported him from below. It took 2 more hours for Mike to force himself up to the surface through tight spaces and the worst pain of his life. The drive to the hospital was another hour and a half. Mike will make a complete recovery, but not overnight. Barbara is writing up the rescue for an upcoming SAG RAG.
- CJ and Kit stopped at Pythian Cave (owned by the Oddfellows) on the way to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Dave Smith, SAG Secretary

DS



Karst viewed from Little Black Mountain. 9-1-19

MARBLES – A and Z: Reviewing Some Old Caves

BB



Reference Point (RP) #6. 10-15-19

ARCH PIT

By Bighorn Broeckel

This cave name appears as early as KMCTF REPORT #3 in 1978 (*). Arch Pit was classified as a durable, vertical cave. It came without fanfare, without tag number, and sans detailed description. It just showed up on a cave list, and later, on some early area maps. The reference persisted in subsequent KMCTF Reports #5,6,7,8, &11, but without elaborations. It was not featured at the Yreka 1990 NSS Convention. It was not included in the wholesale significant cave designation by Klamath National Forest on 2-10-97. From the beginning, Arch Pit wasn't even first on the area's alphabetical order, coming in second behind Apogee. Arch Pit was the cave that couldn't catch a break, unheralded perhaps, but not entirely forgotten.

July 3, 2006 found Steve Knutson out on the karst, relocating caves and features, including Arch Pit. Mark Fritzke also remembered this cave. In September, 2018, he was in the vicinity with Rob Lewis, probing some new technical caves such as Silver Snag. They noticed that Arch Pit had way less snow compared to the olden days, and so checked it out. Mark later produced what may be the cave's first written description: "We ... explored Arch Pit which has five closely spaced entrances joined by arches" (SAG RAG 38:2 Mar-Apr 2019).

So, on 9-3-18, I happened to be crossing the karst, and by chance ran into Mark and Rob, busy with Silver Snag, etc. Well, they took some time to show me around, and chat, and here was one of those caves from the 1970s (Arch Pit) right near to Snowcone Pit, which, by the way, still has its snowcone. What really got my attention with Arch Pit, though, was: (1) I didn't remember seeing a map of it, and (2) it looked like there was an easy way down.

I scooped it on the spot, had a great time exploring it, and I bumped it way up on my high priority list for caves needing maps.

continued



Arch in Arch Pit. 9-1-19



Window or aperture in Arch Pit. 9-1-19

So a year later we returned to the site, 9-1-19. Arch Pit does indeed have five entrances, all pits. The easy way to enter is to scramble down the organic slope at the southernmost aspect of the southernmost pit. This is one of those special microclimate entrances with big leafy plants and ferns. We tried to avoid trampling the place, but that very soon devolved into a semi-controlled butt slide (S.C.B.S.). This is a highly effective method for mountaineering descents which I invented as a small child while making original explorations into one of the great mountainous landscapes of the West (gullies behind my 1960s Southern California neighborhood). I have since found out that others have independently discovered this very same maneuver, so I've decided to downplay that part, about, you know, my invention ...

Anyway, the arches of Arch Pit are quite beautiful. The two halves of the cave are connected by a large window or aperture that is fun to go through. With so many entrances, most of the cave

continued

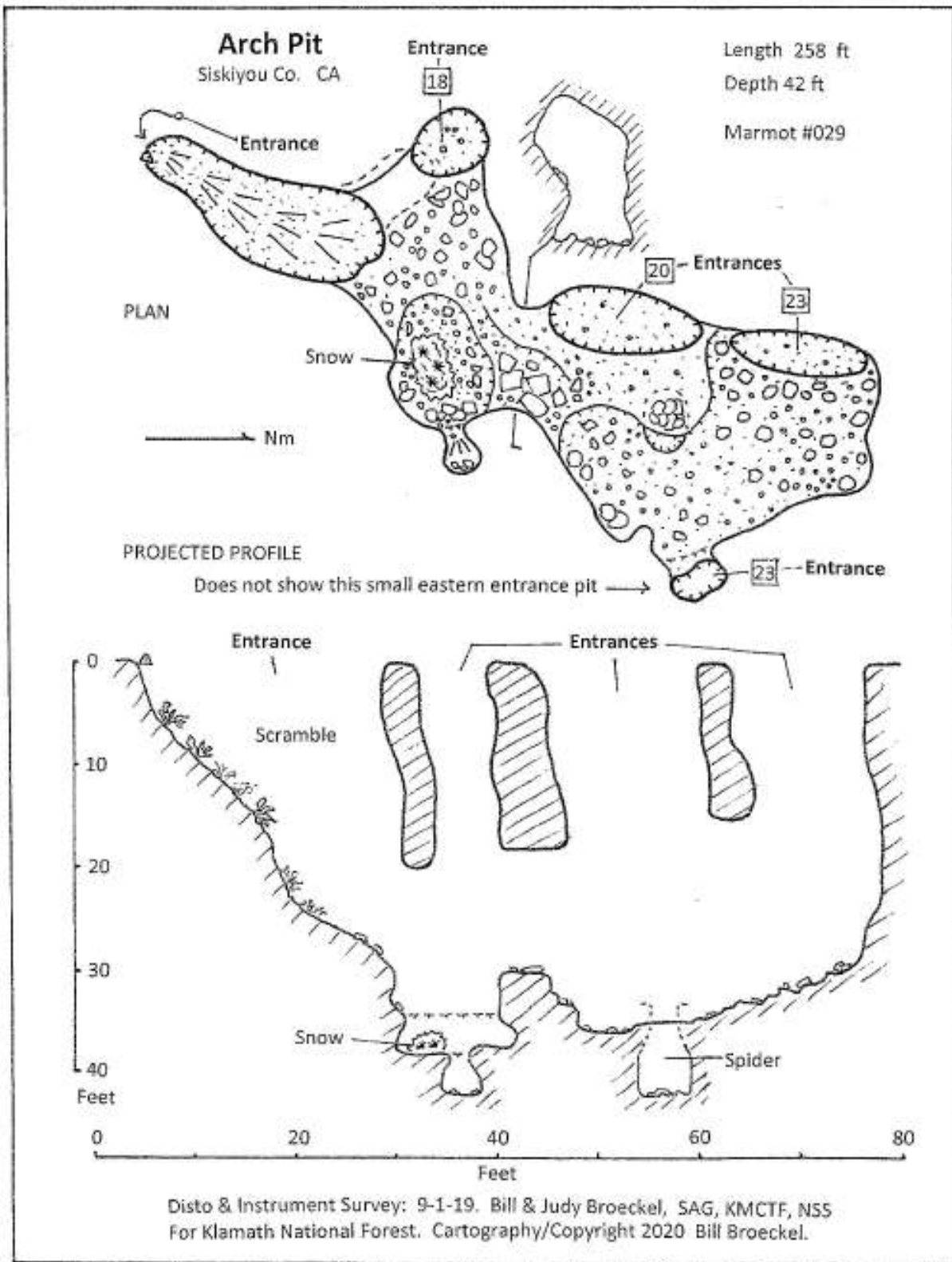


Lined up entrances to Arch Pit. 9-1-19

is a daytime twilight zone. To gain true darkness, we had to snake down into one of the cubby holes. In the cubby under the snow drift, the possibility of a landslide made us feel uneasy. A large spider lurked in the other low cubby, in fact this was the lowest point in the cave. The fifth entrance pit, the little outlier to the east, was left out of the profile for the sake of clarity. However, this interesting chimney, sort of a “secret” feature, we found to be rather charming. Altogether the cave length is 258 feet, and depth 42 feet. Klamath Mountains Conservation Task Force (KMCTF) is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS).

* Klamath Mountains Conservation Task Force (KMCTF) is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS).

continued



Map: Arch Pit

ZISAINTIT CAVE

By Bighorn Broeckel

At the other end of the alphabet we find another cave that doesn't reach base level. It's a real zebra and comes in last on the area's alphabetical list: Zisaintit Cave. Near, but not connected to Bigfoot, it still scores a respectable mention in KMCTF lore. "The drought snow melt yielded three new small caves, Earth Mother, Zisaintit, and Luge" (Knutson, Steve, 1995. *KMCTF-1994*, The KMCTF News 2:1, June 19, 1995, page 7).

Also, Zisaintit was included in the Klamath National Forest mass designation of significant caves on 2-10-97. Best of all, a fine map of the cave appears on the Bigfoot-and-Associated-Caves 1998 map, with the name "Zisaintit Ice Cave". We found the cave to be plenty cold, but nary a single frosted flake was in there in 2019 (Tony the Tiger still said that the cave was grrreat!).

So with all that, you might ask, why does this one get re-mapped?

OK, well, there's a bit of a story. Last Fall (10-14-19), there was just a little time for a quick trip. Arriving late in camp, nobody there, we fixed a light meal. By now it was dark already, but I suggested a crazy scheme. We would pick an azimuth, and follow it into the night until something we could survey showed up. I know, that sounds like a really stupid idea, but that's what we did, and it was off to the races.

The night was cold and clear, under the stars. The hard part was easing through the thickets and scaling obstacles that happened to be in the way of our beeline azimuth. Eventually we came upon a likely cave entrance. By faith we geared up, and initiated a cave survey. In 2-3 hours the task was completed, with a 221-ft cave in the survey book. Before midnight we were sleeping in our bags, back at camp.

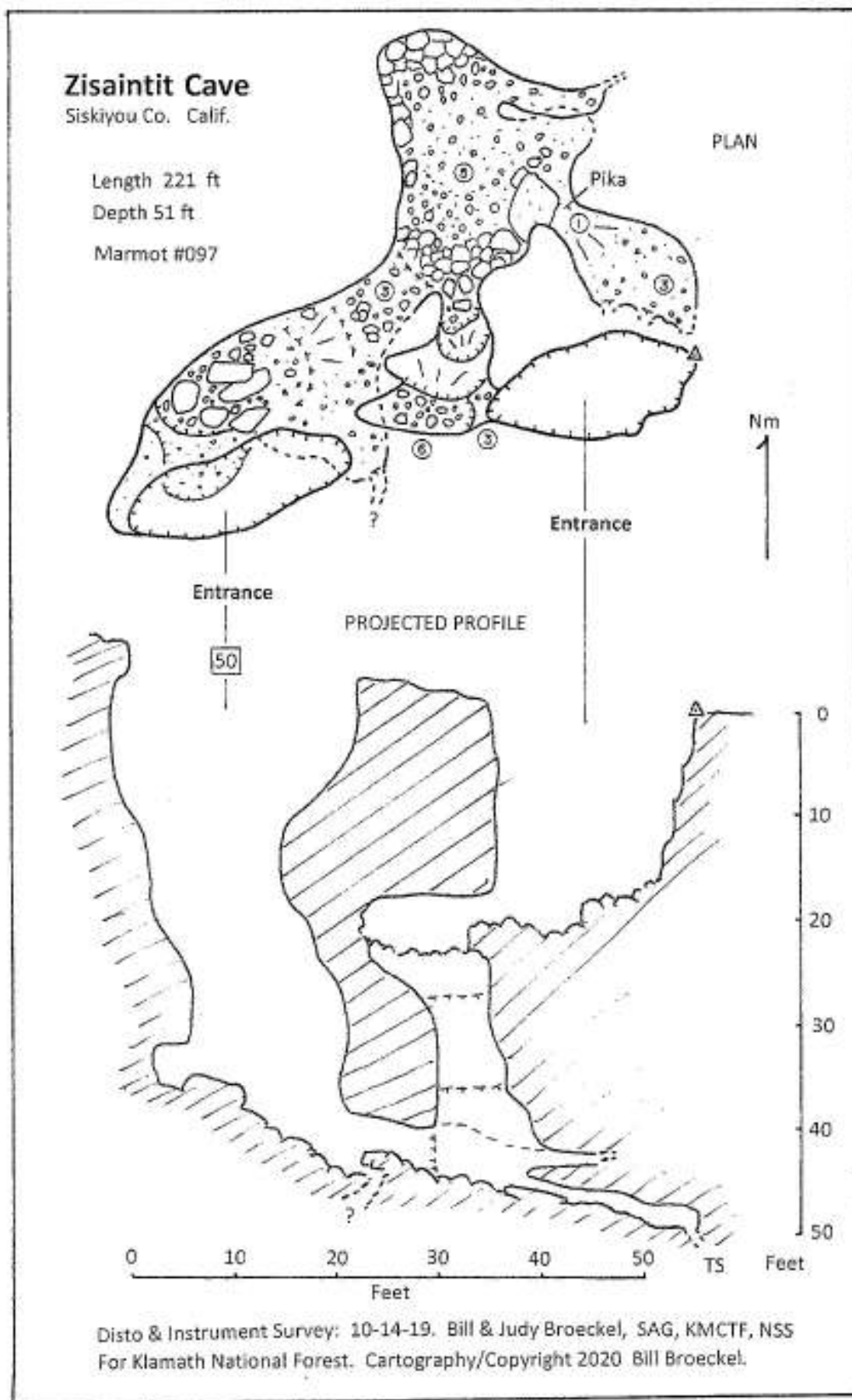
The cave had two sizable sinkhole entrances, side by side. West was a 50-ft definitely vertical drop, while east you could think of as two separate rock climbing pitches of an easy rating. We picked east. Once down on the bottom of the sinkhole, a small triangular opening led into a small entrance chamber where the second pitch started down cracks and ledges to reach the floor level of the cave. From there, a passage went to the other entrance, or you could go another direction and walk around in a nice room.

One of the short crawls went to a tiny drain hole at the bottom of the cave. It was along here that I encountered a small pile of dried ferns. Coming back out, I came face to face with a bewildered pika with a sprig of dried fern in his mouth. He then ran off into a hole.

We left a lead or two in the western entrance pit. That makes the cave map shown here a preliminary effort, as at least one of the leads looks to go some measurable distance. We had a good cave name picked out. That was probably a bad sign, you know. Back home we matched our "new cave" map almost perfectly with a previous map of Zisaintit Cave, and it was in the right spot too. I wondered what was the "it" of Zisaintit – probably Bigfoot Cave. I was also thinking of the cool pika of Zisaintit Cave. These caves and this area could very well represent an important refuge for the pikas during global warming.

So that's it for "Marbles - A and Z: Reviewing Some Old Caves", This article is dedicated to my good old friend Tony the Tiger.

BB



Map: Zisaintit Cave



Bridge over Zisaintit Cave. 10-15-19

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

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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TO: