



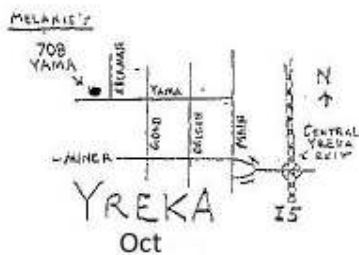
[Photo caption: "Wayne in 2011 on the hike out from Ursa Minor." Photo by Marianne Russo]

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CAVE CALENDAR 2020

- Oct 24 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Mel's in Yreka.
 Dec 4 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Broeckels' in Yreka.

Maps to Meetings



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

This SAG RAG is dedicated to the memory of grotto member Wayne Cedidla (1952-2020). Wayne recently passed on unexpectedly in his sleep, possibly from a sudden cardiac event in his seventh decade. Although he lived in Fair Oaks, he remained active in Shasta Area Grotto for a long string of happy years and caving trips. When Wayne went upside down on our first descent of Shasta County's Danger Pit, I was the guy who rigged too much slack in the rappel line. This was not on purpose. We always held Wayne in high regard. Luckily, he survived that event without injury, and we stayed on survey as the pit yielded some passage as well. In later years, Wayne said something that gave us pause. He said "You know, as I get older, the cave trips that interest me the most are the service trips". He seriously would pick a clean-up of a sacrifice cave over a breakthrough into 1,000 feet of easy scooping. Well, SAG schedules such service trips from time to time, and true to his word, Wayne often showed up, smiling, ready to pitch in, and happy to help out. This is a great example to his fellow cavers. When chances come up to give something back to the caves, think of Wayne. Even regular caving might turn into such a chance. Tuck a bit-bag in the hardhat next time down under and thank Wayne. **BB**

Remembering a Friend, Wayne Cedidla 1952 - 2020

By Marianne Russo

Near the end of August this year, Wayne Cedidla passed away in his sleep. Wayne was a member of the Mother Lode Grotto for several years, from 2005 until approximately 2012. During that time, he was an active caver and regularly attended meetings. Over time though he found that the Shasta Area Grotto (SAG) was a better fit for the kind of caving he liked to do, plus his girlfriend, Melanie Jackson, was a SAG caver who lived in Yreka.

I got to know Wayne rather well and always enjoyed hanging out with him. When the Western Cave Conservancy (WCC) acquired Rippled Cave, I became the project manager and for several years we had regular work trips to create trails, clear brush, and work on the construction of a fieldhouse and a couple of other outbuildings. I remember many days that Wayne showed up to volunteer, sometimes it was just the two of us! He was a hard worker and always pleasant company.

About 10 years ago, in 2011, the WCC was asked by Sequoia National Park to assist in a project to replace the gate on Clough Cave. Our job was to supply labor volunteers and food service. Wayne was there from day one, helping me by loading his truck up with as much as it could handle and convoying down to the South Fork campground with me through a nasty rainstorm that was turning into snow by the time we got to the campground. Boy, that was a miserable night! Throughout the rest of the week he was a tireless worker, doing whatever needed to be done to get the gate materials up to the cave and see that the camp ran smoothly.

As a special "thank you" to several of us who worked on this project, Joel Despain extended an invitation to join a trip to the very special Ursa Minor Cave. Wayne and I drove down together and stayed that night at Joel's house. The purpose of the trip was to test some electro-magnetic radio location equipment that David Larsen was using in caves in Belize. After he was all set up with the equipment above the cave the rest of us started hiking. I can still clearly recall the rough hike down the canyon, struggling through downed trees and thick brush with Wayne, as we followed Joel and the others. The cave is really stunning inside, basically a vertical drop and one fairly large room, but like APC it has large crystals and pristine white flowstone. Also, like APC, changes of clothes and shoes are required and small trails are delimited by flagging tape. Both Wayne and I really enjoyed getting the opportunity to see this cave.

Earlier that same year, 2011, Wayne was on a Mother Lode trip to Soldier's Cave in Sequoia N.P. with me and a few others, including my husband Jerry. As it turns out, it was my last trip to that cave. I have done many trips into that cave over the years, both for just the pleasure of caving and also as part of a major clean-up effort that went on for several years in the 1990's. This last trip was a really good one though, led by Ron Davis. We visited a significant portion of the cave, even getting down to the lake room, which I had only done once before, on my very first trip, many, many years ago. On the way out, Wayne and I were the first ones up the rope to the famous "Angels Seat", where we waited for the others to follow us. Well, we had to wait a long time. Turns out that while we were climbing, Ron dropped his pack down some hole. I kept yelling down to find out what was going on but couldn't get any intelligible answer back. Wayne and I did a lot of grumbling, believe me. We were getting cold, hungry and annoyed. FINALLY,

continued

after an hour or so, Jerry was on rope and headed up. Then we heard what had happened and realized that the rest of the group wasn't just being inconsiderate. Ron finally was able to recover his pack. Needless to say it was a very long day and the hike back to the campground was well after dark, and this was in mid-June!

Wayne was a good caver and a reliable and helpful companion. He tended to be on the quiet side, but was always friendly and enjoyed talking about a wide range of subjects. He was always a welcome addition to anything I had planned. He was one of those people you could really count on. If he said he would be there, he was, if he promised to do something, he did it. I was always sorry he stopped his involvement with the MLG, I know he had his reasons, but many of us really missed him. I'm glad he found another home with SAG and continued his caving life.

Rest in Peace Wayne, your journey ended too soon.

Marianne Russo



Wayne Cedidla and Melanie Jackson in Washington's Cheese Cave. Photo: Bill Frantz.

ROMAN BATH**REPRINT: From SAG RAG 27(5) Sept-Oct 2008**

Trip Report by Wayne Cedidla

On Friday August 8th, 2008, Melanie Jackson, Liz Wolff and I went on a survey trip to the Medicine Lake area of northern California. The first cave we decided to check out was a lava tube called Roman Bath. The last time this cave was visited the entrance was filled with water that formed a small lake. This lake was surrounded by a shelf from the original lava flow making it look a bit like a Roman bath. At that time the lake appeared to be deep and blocked any chance of exploring its obviously flooded main passage.

I was making my way down to the cave entrance when Liz asked me to see where the water level was. I was in the bright sunlight at that time and could not see into the black depth of the entrance very well. As I got closer I could see something but it didn't look like water so I told Liz I would climb down farther to check it out. Liz seemed surprised that I couldn't see the water from where I was. When I got down deeper into the entrance I was surprised to see what appeared to be a moderate sized frozen lake. After some discussion with Liz we realized that the surface level was a good 20 feet lower than on the previous visit and it was now frozen.

I ventured down to the edge of the ice with caution since breaking through a frozen lake was the last thing I wanted to do. Soon, Liz and Melanie caught up with me. Our view from the edge of the ice turned out to be one of the more intriguing I have experienced while caving. From the frozen lake edge we could see additional passage with alluring ice formations faintly visible in



Mel Crossing Ice — Melanie walking as close as possible to the edge of the ice based on the assumption that if she broke through the water wouldn't be as deep there. The ceiling was a convenient hand hold.

Photo credit: Wayne Cedidla.

continued

the distance; unfortunately our lights weren't bright enough to give a good view of the void ahead. This meant we would have to cross the ice if we wanted to explore further. Melanie, being bravest, decided to carefully test the ice. After much deliberation it was decided that the ice near the edges was strong enough to hold.

Mel went first with Liz and I staying behind, prepared to mount a rescue if necessary. When she made it across to a small area of breakdown she got off the ice and I then inched my way across. Staying upright on slick ice is no small feat; however we could steady ourselves on a low ceiling which helped tremendously. Liz stayed behind for safety while Melanie and I scoped out what we could. As far ahead as we could see was more passage and ice. At this point the ice made a smooth drop down of about six feet. The problem was that the slope of the ice was just enough that coming back up might not be possible. I had 30 feet of webbing with me so we rigged up a hand line which I anchored from my position on the breakdown pile while Melanie made her way down the slope. We felt confident that between the hand line and some handholds on the walls that she would be able to make it back out.

By this time we were building confidence in the load bearing capacity of the ice, in fact in places it was so clear we could see through it to the rocky floor underneath. The parts we could see through appeared to be 18 to 24 inches thick and frozen solid while in other places we couldn't tell. There was a small amount of melt water on the ice surface but this didn't cause any problems other than to get things wet and cold. Melanie carefully went ahead while Liz and I waited at our strategic rescue points. After what seemed like a long time Melanie came back with an amazing description of the frozen passage ahead that was loaded with beautiful ice formations. Based on her successful push we decided to survey the passage.



Handline for ascending ice slope — In this photo the hand line can be seen going over the ice drop-off. The white line crossing over the hand line is the survey tape.

Photo credit: Wayne Cedidla.

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Stalagmite — These formations were unusual in that they were located by themselves on the otherwise flat surface of the lake. It was a strange sight to see them standing guard near the ice drop-off. The largest formation is approximately 18 inches in diameter and 3 feet high.

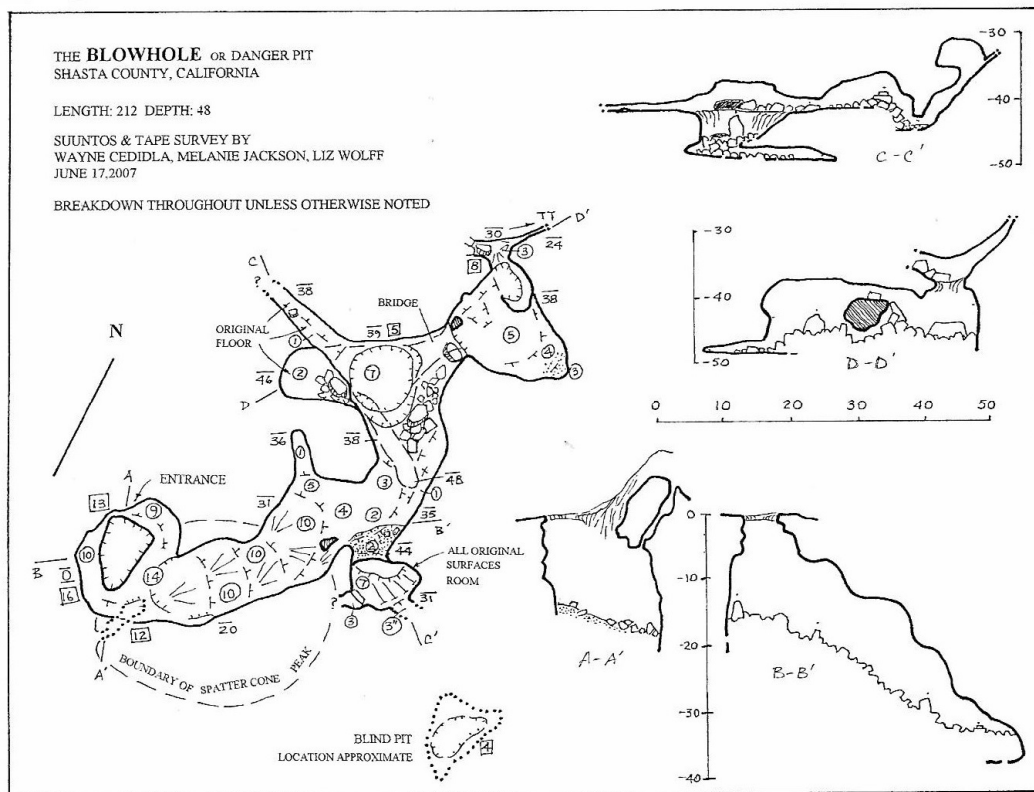
Photo credit: Wayne Ceditla

Seeing traditional cave formations in ice was a thrill I won't soon forget. Most every formation you would see in a good limestone cave was duplicated here in ice. There were the usual stalactites and mites but also large columns and at one place a frozen waterfall. However, the most beautiful sights in my opinion were the ice draperies. These were identical in shape to calcite draperies except in crystal clear ice. It was an amazing sight to be surrounded by the beautiful ice and rock.

We started our survey as we exited the passage and I soon learned that just because I could see an excellent place for a survey station I couldn't necessarily get safely across the slippery ice to use it. I did make one discovery that helped me and may help others finding themselves on ice without crampons. The ballistic nylon on my Gonzo Guano Gear type of knee pads had an amazing grip on the slippery ice. There was something about the nylon mesh that sort of melted into the ice and grabbed like crampons. I soon found myself scooting around on my knees like they were meant for ice climbing. On the way out I actually made it back up the ice slope without the need for the hand line.

After we finished surveying the frozen passage we checked out another small opening inside the main cave entrance but after a few feet it dropped into a small pit filled with ice. We also surveyed another passage within the main entrance that was well above the water line and therefore was dry and dusty. Each of the passages we surveyed turned out to have a length of approximately 250 feet giving the total length of the cave at approximately 500 feet. We believe that Melanie's exploration of the frozen passage may have been a first since there are no known maps or descriptions of the cave and the previous visit to the site found it flooded preventing exploration.

WC



Map: Blowhole Cave



Wayne Cedidla upside down in Danger Pit. Photo: Vern Cliff. Map: Liz Wolff.
This material is reprinted from SAG RAG 26(4) July-Aug 2007.

Lemuel Cave Siskiyou County

By Bill Broeckel

Description:

The main crack entrance is wider than some, and has a log in it. Bits of walking passage with for real cave ceilings are accessible by easy scrambles both north and south from the main entrance. North quickly divides upper and lower. Upper goes to the light of a smaller, rougher second entrance. The lower option features ice on the floor (5-1-20) and 9-ft of narrower extension.

Meanwhile, south goes around the log to 20-ft of nice walking passage. This ends in breakdown with a dollop of daylight filtering in from above. Surveyed cave length is 90-ft.

History:

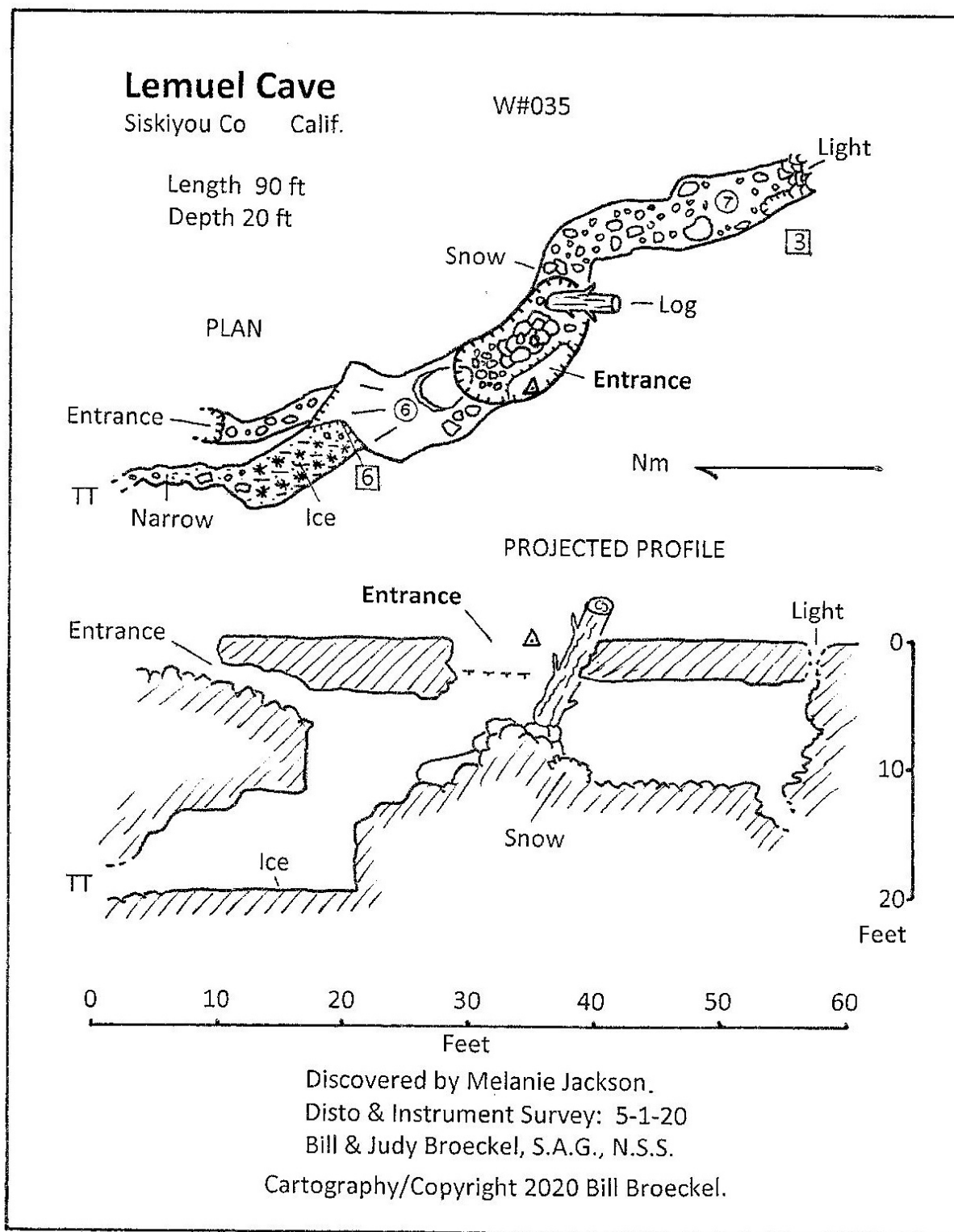
Melanie Jackson spotted this cave on a Shasta Area Grotto (SAG) trip to re-locate Ice Ribbon Cave on 4-26-20. The name is sort of a word scramble on Mel. Lemuel was a kind of mysterious Bible king mentioned in Proverbs 31:1 and 31:4.

Geology:

The crack appears to be tectonic, first crossing, then along the margin of a tube bearing lava flow. Curious flat ceilings in Lemuel walking passages showcase an interesting conglomerate form of lava. Cold air travels down through the cracks and preserves patches of ice and snow deep into the summer. **BB**



Entrance to Lemeul Cave. 4-26-20



Map: Lemuel Cave



Wayne Cedidla (right center) at 6-16-2007 grotto meeting.



THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SHASTA AREA GROTTO

The Shasta Area Grotto is a conservation organization devoted to the protection and study of caves and their contents.

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

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