

sag rag

40:5 Sept-Oct 2021



Three Strikes Cave 6-4-20

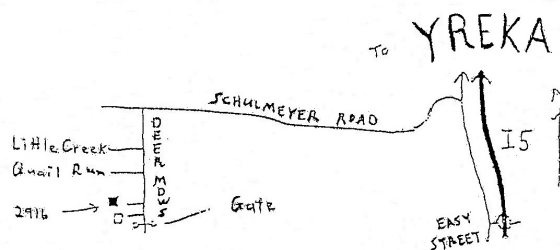
Inside: Three Strikes Cave, Nautilus Cave, and Bill vertical

The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at various sites or homes on the fourth Saturday of most months at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, subject to changes by email. Membership dues are \$5 per year, due at the first of the year, and include SAG RAG subscription. Send dues to treasurer Melanie Jackson at 708 Yama St., Yreka CA 96097. Original material submitted for the SAG RAG, unless otherwise noted, is copyright to the SAG RAG. Within the caving community, such may be copied with credit given to the author and the SAG RAG. For use outside the cave community, please seek the permission of the author or editor first. Send material for publication, always welcomed for consideration, to Bighorn Broeckel, 2916 Deer Meadow Road, Yreka, CA 96097 or <caverbill@live.com>. Also check on the Shasta Area Grotto website.

CAVE CALENDAR 2021

Dec 4 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Broeckels, Yreka. Christmas Cookies

Map to Meeting



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bill Broeckel

My caving has kind of slowed down the last year or two, but others have kept pace and we, collectively as a grotto, have kept things going remarkably well, plus a dollop of that sometimes elusive quality of “caving magic”. Yellow-jacket Cave (the sub-alpine one) morphed from the loose dig it was, to become the latest 1,000-ft cave for Siskiyou County. Meanwhile, another new cave has done the same favor for Shasta County. Weed convention field trips and the SAG/SAR rescue practice were accomplished with no major casualties that I know of. At the same time, the Grotto seems to be growing and thriving a little. The adversity faced by general society has also been a boon for outdoor activity. A tiny newsletter lull offers us a chance to catch-up on unpublished meeting minutes from 2020. Two new cave maps are tossed in to partially off-set the preponderance of minutes (just blame the OCD editor).

You may have heard about “Bill walking passage”. That’s when I say “walking passage” and it turns out to be a miserable crawl that fizzles down to nothing. Well, now we have “Bill vertical”. I report an exciting pit, and based on my description, people show up geared for Golondrinas, but then it turns out to be a simple un-roped scramble your grandma could handle. Anyway, these two cave maps/reports are good examples of “Bill vertical”. .

BB

February 28, 2020 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm. At Wolffs' in McCloud.

Present were: Steve Hobson, presiding, Wayne Cedidla, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Barbara & Mike Stufflebeam, Jim & Liz Wolff, and guest, Randy Smallegan.

Minutes from the January meeting were accepted as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT: the current balance is \$898.94 and \$116.00 in petty cash. \$50.00 in dues have come in, and \$250.00 was sent to the S.E. Cave Conservancy toward purchase of Cyclops Cave.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: Both OK.

SAG RAG REPORT: None.

LISTSERV REPORT: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- We have no decision from Matt Bowers on whether there will be NSS trips to Pluto's or nearby caves.
- Genetic changes are being seen in bats surviving WNS.
- I.O. Newsletters are available for those wanting to see them.
- We received a notice on Conservation Month from the NSS.
- Louis Hooen asked about trips to the Lavas starting in May for familiarization with caves there.

2020 CALENDAR:

- March 27 SAG Meeting Fri at 7:30 at Broeckel's; caving activity TBD.
- April 24-26 SAG Meeting Fri at 7:30 at Dave's in Chico; caving at Wilson Lake.
- May 29-31 Hat Creek camp out – Scouting for convention caves.
- June 19-20 SAG Meeting Fri at 7:30 at Stufflebeam's; 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:

- Manzanita Ridge is being considered for caving after the June meeting at Stufflebeams'.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There will be rope practice Saturday at Steve's and a cleanup trip to Pluto's on Sunday.
- Safety issues were discussed in relation to Mike's accident at Blanchet Cave. Steve having brought a rope and Barbara knowing how to belay Mike during the rescue were critical to getting him out of the cave.

NSS 2021 CONVENTION:

- We will be scouting Lava Beds for NSS trips, and will be talking to the High Desert Grotto and others for help. We'll begin when the weather warms. We will not be responsible for LABE trips.

continued

- Linda and Vern and two other people will handle tables for sign-ups.
- Joel and Steve are checking into doing a wild cave tour at Shasta Caverns.
- Steve may do a pre-convention trip to APC, which has a 6 person limit plus guides. They may also visit Discovery Caves or Riley's and Deanna Lynn.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Liz has made an amended cave list for convention trips, and will put the cave data files on thumb drives for preparing cave descriptions for the convention.

TRIP REPORTS:

- After the last meeting CJ and Kit visited some of the caves in LABE and also Ellery Creek.
- Feb. 23 Joel, Heather, Steve and Anna Denisha did surveying and made route changes to the APC. The cave has a lot of water and is dripping.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.
David Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

June 27, 2020 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 pm. At Wolffs' in McCloud.

Present were: Steve Hobson, presiding, Melanie Jackson, CJ & Kit McKinley, Dave Smith, Barbara Stufflebeam, Jim & Liz Wolff, and Russ Yoder.

Minutes of previous meetings were not available.

TREASURER'S REPORT: the current balance is \$734.94, including \$130.00 in petty cash.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: Both are OK. The WNS statement on the website will be revised to note that the disease affects bats and not humans.

SAG RAG REPORT: None.

LISTSERV REPORT: None.

2020 CALENDAR:

- 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 planning.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lassen NF and Hat Creek opened June 25, with some campgrounds remaining closed.
- Marble Valley is currently open with no campfires, and with permits required for stoves. Steve will need to get commitments for the planned Sept. 4-9 Marbles trip with mules.
- SAR has new leaders who will be working with SAG for this year's October rescue practice.

continued

- The July, August and Sept. meetings will be on Saturdays, July will be at the Dry Camp near Medicine Lake and August and Sept. at Steve's in McCloud. The October meeting will be Oct. 23 at Melanie's, The Dec. meeting will be Dec. 4 at Broeckels'.

NSS 2021 CONVENTION:

- We are hoping High Desert Grotto members will be at the July campout, for site review and training as leaders during the convention.
- NSS cave activities will also be planned at the Aug. 29 meeting, to be held on Saturday at Steve's.
- The convention dates are June 25-July 2. Steve Knutsen is planning a post-convention Marbles trip.

TRIP REPORTS:

- Russ has been in the Round Mt. area looking at new caves.
- Jim, Liz, and Dave GPS'ed caves in the Katelma area in May, and with Melanie in the Chimney Crater and Francis's Folly areas in June. Liz, Bill, Judy, Steve and Jim GPS'ed in the Junction, Bent Skylight and Camilla's Cupboard areas.
- CJ and Kit took friends to Tichnor and Glacier Cavern.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.
David Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

July 25, 2020 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 pm. at Medicine Lake Highlands Dry Camp.

Present were: Steve Hobson presiding, Melanie Jackson, CJ & Kit McKinley, Dave Smith, Barbara Stufflebeam, Jim & Liz Wolff, Russ Yoder, and guests Dave Martin and Matt Silva (central OR).

Minutes from the February and June meetings were accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$20 in dues was paid in after the last meeting. The current balance is \$638.94 in deposits + \$116 petty cash = \$754.94.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: Upcoming events have been updated on the website.

SAG RAG REPORT: Bill is working on the May-June issue, which will have an article on Deanna Lynn Cave.

LISTSERV REPORT: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The NSS Convention this year will be virtual rather than in person due to the Covid virus.
- Some caves in Deschutes Natl. Forest will be closed seasonally. Temporary bolts and pitons will no longer be allowed in caves.
- This year's bat walk has been cancelled.

2020 CALENDAR:

- July 24-26 Campout and Sat. SAG meeting at Medicine Lake Highlands Dry Camp. Trip planning for Freudian, Bobcat, Francis' Folly, Roman Bath, possibly S Canyon.
- Aug. 7-9 Trip planning for Catwalk (vert), Arch Sunk, Shovel, Yellow Tuber?, Bent Skylight, Camilla's Cupboard, Junction.

continued

- Aug 14-16 Trip planning for Beestro (vert), Beebowl, Twin Crater, Harris Mtn., Red Tape.
- Aug. 28-30 SAG Meeting Sat at 7:30 at Hobson's. Trip planning for Sidebottom Ice, Ice Palace to Lloyd's Ice Rink, Breakdown Chamber to Pillared, possibly S Canyon.
- Sept 4-7 Trip planning for Water Caves, Water Caves Complex & Bridge, Tree Cast Pillar, Dragon's Tongue, JARBL.
- Sept 18-20 Trip planning for Sunbeam Pit (vert), Tire Tube (vert), James Brothers, Double Tube.
- Sept. 25-26 SAG Meeting Sat at 7:30 at Steve's; preparations Saturday for SAR cave rescue practice Oct. 10 (tentative).
- Oct. 10 (Sat.) SAG/DSAR rescue practice (tentative).
- Oct 16-18 Trip planning for Katelma & Upper Katelma, Rat Castle, Les Martin (vert), Golden Scorpion (vert).
- Oct. 23-25 SAG Meeting Sat at 7:30 at Hat Creek. Trip planning for Mad Hatter, Bob the Boulder, Hat Trick & Kiva area, Sweet Sinkers.
- Dec 4 (1st Fri.) SAG Meeting at Broeckel's, with cookies, officer nominations, 2021 planning.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Marbles trip for Sept. is being cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Due to the fires in the Medicine Lake area, Medicine Lake Rd. is being closed to through traffic. We may be asked to evacuate.
- NSS IO Reports are now being received. To see them contact the SAG secretary.
- Lassen National Park and some Hat Creek campgrounds are open.
- No campfires are being allowed in Marble Valley; stoves can be used with a permit.
- SAR has new leaders who will work with us for the October cave rescue practice.
- SAG meetings are being rescheduled for Saturday evenings at 7:30, after caving activities. Activities may extend to Sundays.
- The October SAG meeting will be at Melanie's in place of Hat Creek.

NSS 2021 CONVENTION:

- We are continuing to work on cave plans for the Convention June 25 – July 2, and on pre- and post-Convention cave trips. On Friday a number of volcanic features were checked, and there were trips to Water Caves, Catwalk, and Checkout today.
- We are looking into using the Porcupine camping area for our next campout, as it is closer to the caves we will be checking. It is also a dry camp. We will likely cancel the Sept. 4-7 campout.

TRIP REPORTS:

- This weekend Barbara Stufflebeam visited Freudian.
- A number of people visited Bobcat (Arley and Breanna Kisling, Matt Logan, Russ Yoder, Melanie, Dave and Liz),
- Liz, Melanie and Dave also visited Freudian and Spattercones.
- Steve visited Indian Cave with his grandmonster.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.
David Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

continued

Sept 26, 2020 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm. At Steve's in McCloud.

Present were: Steve Hobson presiding, Melanie Jackson, Breanna Kisling, Dave Smith, Mike Stuffelbeam, Jim & Liz Wolff, and guests Sharon and Thorne Bertrand, who are applying for membership.

Minutes from the August meeting were accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The current balance is: \$769.94 total; bank: 653.94, and petty cash: 116.00.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: Both doing OK.

SAG RAG REPORT: No update.

LISTSERV REPORT: No update.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Maryanne Russo wrote about a new property being purchased by the WCC, with at least 10 named caves. We are in agreement to send \$100 each of the next 3 years to help with the purchase.

2020 CALENDAR:

Sept 25-26	SAG meeting Sat. 7:30 at Steve's. Preparation Saturday for SAG/SAR rescue practice Oct. 10 (tentative).
Oct 10 (Sat.)	SAG/SAR rescue practice (tentative).
Oct 16-18	Trip planning for Katelma & Upper Katelma, Rat Castle, Les Martin (vert), Golden Scorpion (vert). Camping at Porcupine Camp.
Oct 23-25	SAG Meeting Sat at 7:30 at Hat Creek. Trip planning for Mad Hatter, Bob the Boulder Hat Trick & Kiva area, Sweet Sinkers.
Dec 4 (1st Fri.)	SAG meeting at Broeckels' in Yreka. Cookie exchange, scheduling for 2021 and nominations for 2021 officers.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We are adding Don Raan, Ann Hildebrand and Matt Silva to the Google list.
- The geology tour led by Bill Hirt is being changed to October 9.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Niles Lanthrup contacted Steve about replacing flagging in APC. Steve will check if he is in NSS since we don't know him and need to keep cave access limited.
- The Marbles caver's camp was broken up to keep visitor numbers down during the Covid pandemic. We may need to rebuild it next year.
- The grotto will be spreading Ray Miller's ashes in the McCloud area October 3.
- Steve will be planning vertical training for Arley and Breanna and for Sharon and Thorne as schedules permit.

TRIP REPORTS:

- Steve, Sharon, and Thorne visited Bobcat and Octopus to plan for the SAR training exercises in Oct.
- Dave re-GPS'ed several caves in the Papoose Complex.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.
David Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

THREE STRIKES CAVE

By Bill Broeckel

This cave was located and named years ago by Russ Yoder. It fit the description I had, so I'm pretty sure this is it. The only entrance is a small skylight 6-ft to the floor, and perfectly sized to accept a 6-ft step ladder. The entrance chamber is damp and mossy. Peripheral ledges along the walls can be climbed to access crawlways that go short distances like surface tubes. This cave, however, is more than just surface tubes.

A second drop was noted through some larger blocks, one of which wobbled. I was sure this pit was at least a mile deep, and we would need a 6,000-ft rope with a big knot tied at the end. Bill vertical.

When survey day came around, it was Marc Heins who went down the step ladder first. He had the second drop down-climbed, and the rest of the cave explored by the time I reached the bottom of the ladder. We hauled around our vertical bags for the rest of that hot afternoon. Bill vertical – classic example.

Though shorter than expected, Three Strikes Cave is still unique. Never mind the upper level crawls. Three chambers in a row, all with stand-up room, drop down through the cave's 27-ft. of depth. The slope between the 2nd and 3rd rooms is a nice lava cascade. The 3rd room has some muddy areas, but you can stay up on rocks. None of the rooms had going leads, the three strikes I suppose. Three strikes and you're out. But for a few minutes there, it was all good as a cool, dark hide-out on a hot summer's day.

The cave was surveyed on July 28, 2021 by Bill Broeckel and Mark Heins. Total cave length was 164-ft. **BB**

NAUTILUS CAVE

By Bill Broeckel

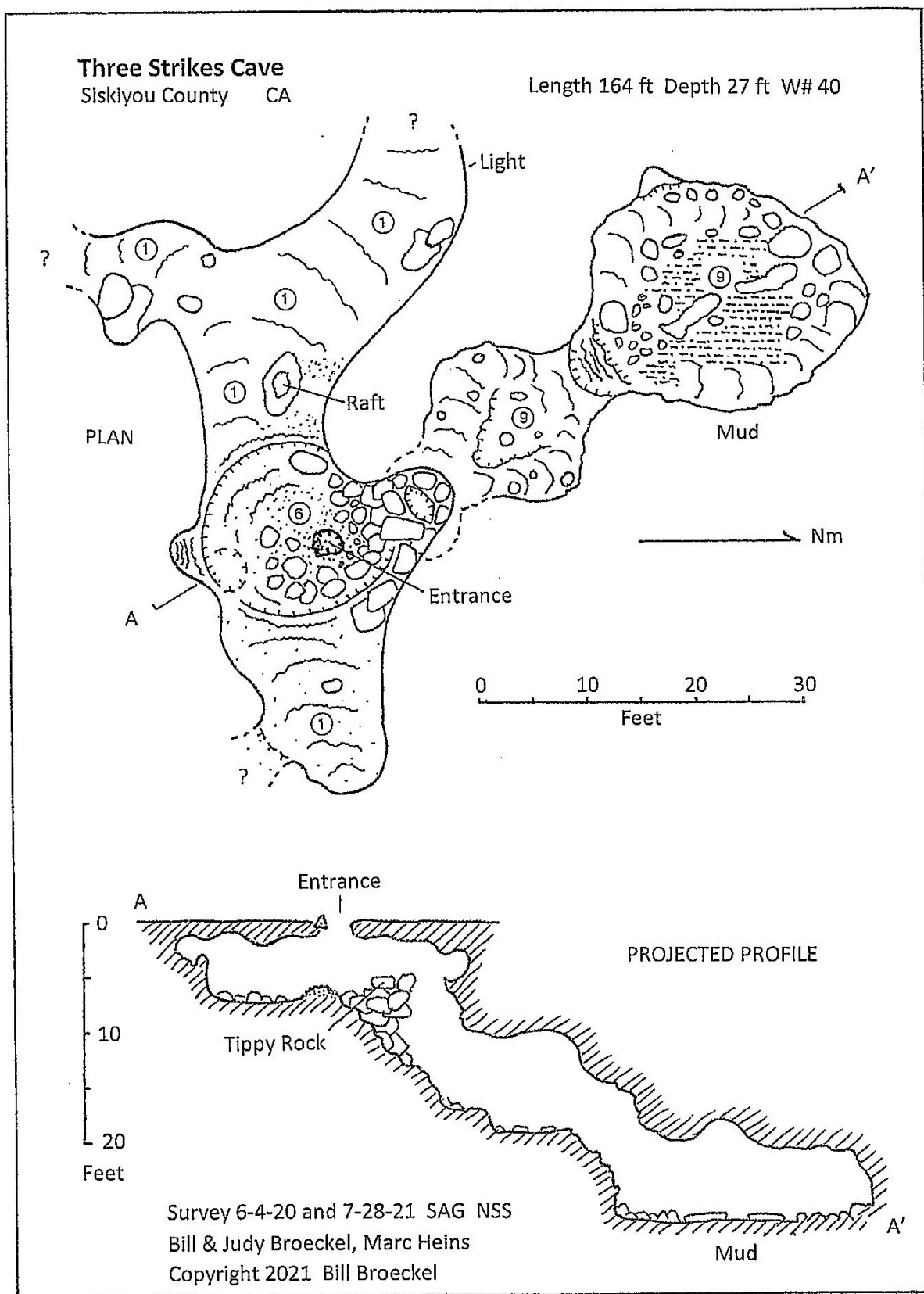
There are two lava flow arms that contain Three Strikes and Nautilus Caves, one arm for each cave. The shortest distance between the caves is across the Aa lava that separates the two arms.

The large skylight entrance to Nautilus overhangs all the way around. At one spot, a steep ledge leads down to a 5-ft drop. That's right. Undaunted, I whipped out my 150-ft Bluewater Two and tied it off to a small bush. Next I got out my full-size old school 6-bar rack, checked everything twice, called out "on rope!", and proceeded. The deed was accomplished in fine form, keeping my feet out straight in front of me to make the most of all 60 inches of my courageous rappel. Bill vertical. Also, I was ready to do a change-over if needed.

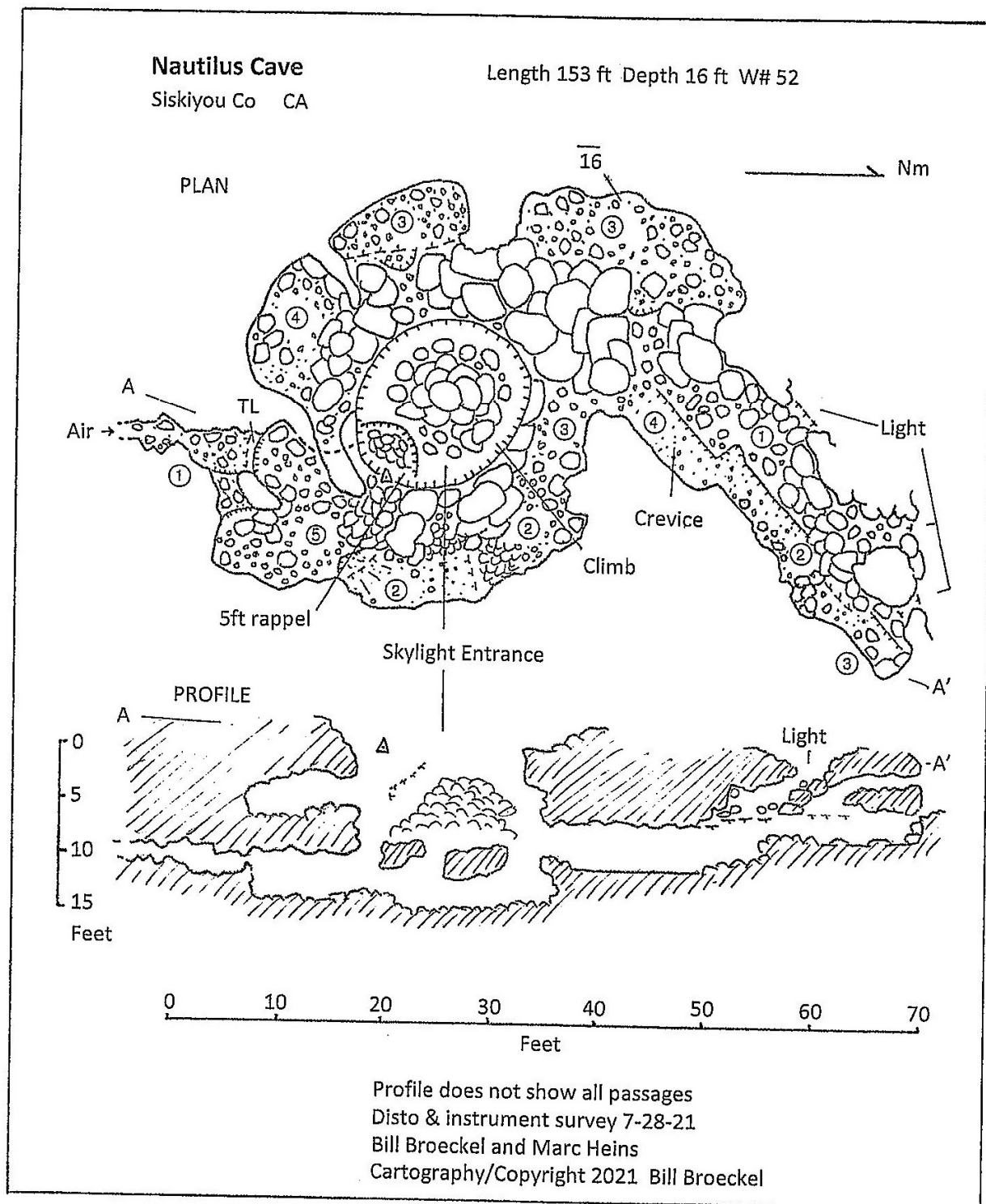
Later on, we figured a way to free climb back up, at a different spot. I actually used a heel hook to gain leverage to lift myself out of the pit. I was real proud of that, as I hardly ever use a heel hook for anything. Also, I didn't have to use my Mitchell System. Bill vertical – another classic case.

Besides dealing with all the vertical complexity offered here, we also explored and surveyed the rest of the cave. South there was a crawlway in the back wall that quickly ends in a tiny lead blowing cold air. Marc came up with an interesting crevice passage north that led to daylight. Here an entrance could be dug open by moving some rocks. That brings up another common feature of Bill vertical - horizontal routes are often found bypassing the vertical feature, if any.

Other than that, the cave amounted to some areas of larger breakdown blocks forming a series of rooms arranged around the periphery of the sinkhole. The over-all configuration is spiral, hence Nautilus Cave. This cave was also surveyed on July 28, 2021 by Bill Broeckel and Marc Heins. Cave length is 153-ft and depth 16-ft. **BB**



Map: Three Strikes Cave



Map: Nautilus Cave



Three Strikes Cave entrance.



Three Strikes Cave Entrance – Bill vertical set-up. June 4, 2020

SAG RAG
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STAMP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO:

Page 1	Three Strikes Cave
Page 2	Calendar and Summary – B. Broeckel
Pages 3-8	SAG Minutes (2020) – Dave Smith
Pages 9-12	Three Strikes and Nautilus Caves – BB