



INSIDE: Shasta County Lava Caves and January Walk to Lime Kiln

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 2022

Apr 23

SAG Meeting 7:30 pm at Hobson's in McCloud.
See map to meeting on next page. (Use Esperanza Rd. to reach Hobsons.)

SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bill Broeckel

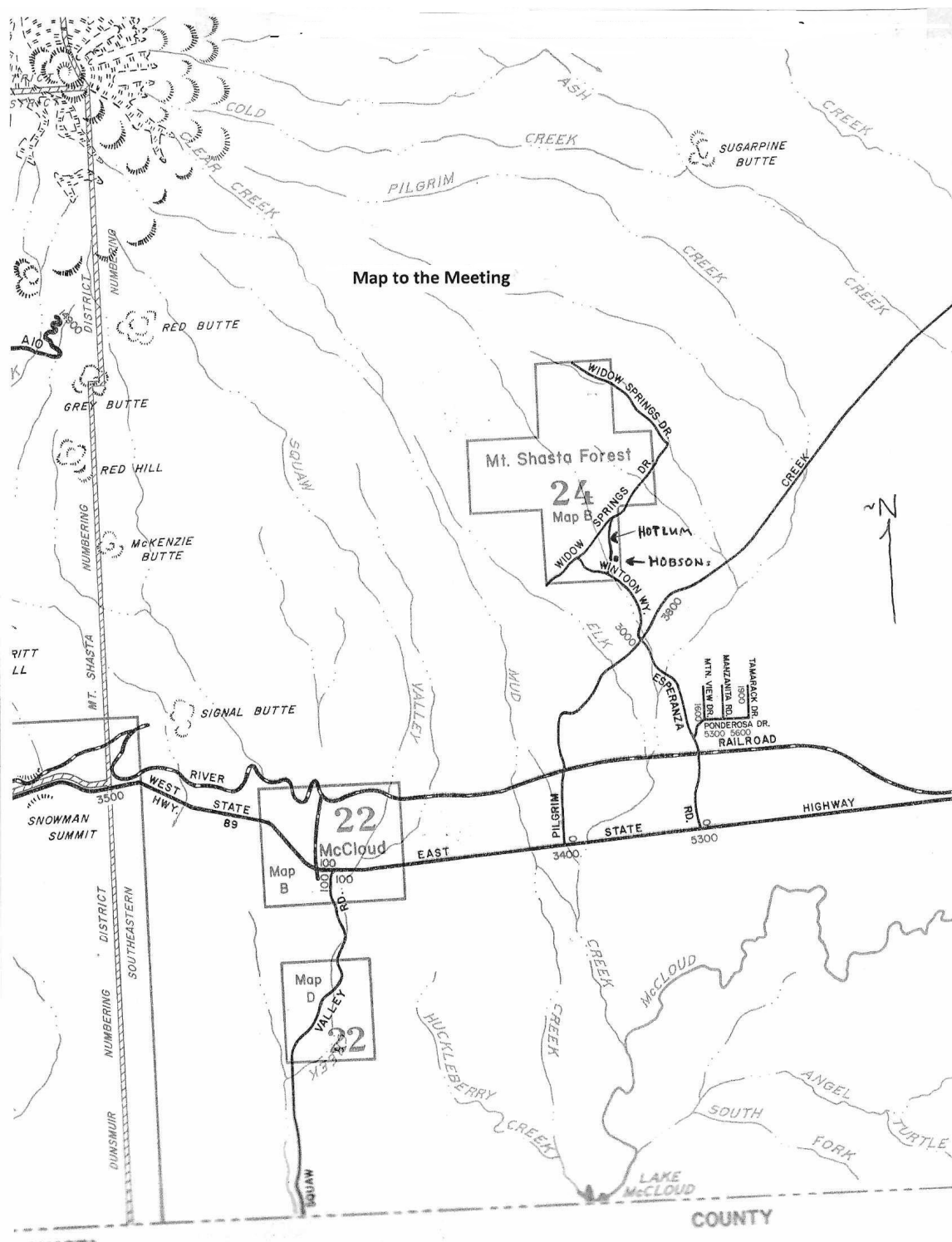
Today I offer an apology for the thin issue of SAG RAG. There is a low ebb in material, but I will offer a picture of my granddaughter. Also, here's an update on Shasta County lava tubes, which is a refuge in many ways. Last time we checked up the Medicine Lake Road, there were still snow drifts and fallen trees, but we were able to reach Gaping Holes via the regular route. Some road repairs have been made, one part repaved, and the other part graded and graveled, eliminating many potholes (the bad kind). Been caving? Share your experiences with other North California cavers, and send reports to the SAG RAG.

BB

Cover: Photos from walk to Lime Kiln east of Bellevue WA.

1-14-22 Broeckels Bill, Judy, Benj, and Freya hiked out to an old, abandoned lime kiln site and found the large block structure of bricks and rocks intact. Here limestone was heated and transformed into lime, then hauled off down the adjacent RR track for commercial uses. Limestone is calcium carbonate for the most part, though often contaminated with clay, sand, or magnesium (dolomite). When cooked at the proper temperature, lime is produced (Calcium oxide) also known as quicklime. This can be used for cement, mortar, or to neutralize acidic soil. The picture shows the inside of the kiln with what looks like flowstone emerging from a shrine-like orifice. We imagined a nearby limestone quarry, a fired up kiln, and loading lime down chutes to receptacles on rail cars. The back page shows the creepy trees around the kiln and a mystified granddaughter (Freya) who has no idea what's going on, outside on a cold drippy day. Like a cave, the kiln might be hiding a secret chamber somewhere inside. It would be fun to climb up on the roof sometime. But of course the main point of all this is to have a picture of the granddaughter in the SAG RAG.

BB



Dec 4, 2021 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 pm. at Broeckels' in Yreka.

Present were: Steve Hobson presiding, Tyanna Blaschak, Bill and Judy Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Mike Stufflebeam, and Jim & Liz Wolff.

Minutes from the October 2021 meeting were accepted as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The current bank balance is \$ 538.94, plus \$ 116.00 petty cash = \$ 654.94 total. The balance reflects a second \$100 payment toward the acquisition of the Volcano cave area.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: no changes.

SAG RAG REPORT: Minutes of all of the 2020 SAG meetings have now been printed in the SAG RAG. Bill is looking for more material for issue 40(6). Dave will forward Joel and Heather's article on Shasta Caverns this week.

LISTSERV REPORT: no changes.

2022 SAG CALENDAR:

Sat. Jan. 22 Meeting at 7:30 at Steve's.

Sat. Feb. 26 Meeting at 7:30 at Wolffs'.

Sat. March 26 Meeting at 7:30 at Melanie's.

Sat. Apr. 23 Meeting at 7:30, location to be decided.

Sat. May 21 Meeting at 7:30 at Hat Creek (campout).

Fri. June 10 through Sat. June 11 LABE, cave rescue training (campout).

Sat. June 25 Meeting at 7:30 at Mike and Barbara's, caving at Manzanita Ridge or the Natural Bridge area.

Sat. July 23 Meeting at 7:30, possibly at Bill and Judy's.

Meeting plans for Aug. 28, Sept. 24, and Oct. 22 are not yet set.

Sat. Dec. 3 Meeting at 7:30 at Bill and Judy's, with cookies.

Also planned are:

Friday Sept. 2 through Wed. Sept. 7 there will be a Marbles trip with mules. The round trip cost for the mules is \$200 including tip, with a limit of 75 lbs. of gear per person. If you want to ride in on a horse that is extra. Steve will make a deposit to the packers and collect the money from those of you planning on having your gear packed in a month beforehand. Let Steve know before summer to reserve a mule.

Saturday Oct. 8 there might be a SAG/SAR rescue practice.

OLD BUSINESS: none

continued

NEW BUSINESS:

At the meeting the current grotto officers were nominated to continue next year. They are:

Chair: Steve Hobson

Vice Chair: Jim Wolff

Secretary: Dave Smith

Treasurer: Melanie Jackson

Other nominations will be accepted with the nominee's approval, and we will re-vote on those positions to include them. It is important that nominees be members of both the grotto and NSS. Results will be reported at the January meeting.

Please email Dave (therealdavesmith@gmail.com) with your choices, or nominees to add, while it is on your mind. Results will be announced at the January meeting.

TRIP REPORTS

Steve, Jim and Liz recently visited Sugar Pine Butte Cave.

Today Steve, Tyanna and the Wolffs visited Rocky Road Cave and Upper Cave.

The APC trip Steve arranged to check the condition of the cave included Mark Heinz, Mel, CJ & Kit, Matt Silva, and Mike Stufflebeam.

Dave made two trips to check out Lidar readings Tom Rickman has for Tehama County. The Lidar images picked up 3 small caves not in our records, and a number of depressions that didn't check out. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the area we have images for still needs to be walked.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

David Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

360 Degrees and 360 Caves By Bill Broeckel

Here are a couple new lava caves for Shasta County. My wife Judy and I were able to get out on some sunny afternoons this last winter, and used a new method for finding new caves. It works like this. First you pick a mundane goal for the outing, such as confirming GPS on an entrance, picking up a cave photo, or maybe pushing a lead in a certain cave. This provides some structure for starting out, but is actually to be considered "Plan B". Next you formulate a new direction of approach to reach the "Plan B" objective, different from the usual route you used previously. Then as you go forward, you are looking for new caves.

One of two things will happen. You might actually find a new cave. This then becomes "Plan A" and you can use the rest of your day documenting un-surveyed passages as best as you can. Or, the opposite happens, you don't find a new cave, and then you can complete the "Plan B" assignment, and maybe still have time for more ridge-walking on the way home. Either way, you get a good chance to go caving.

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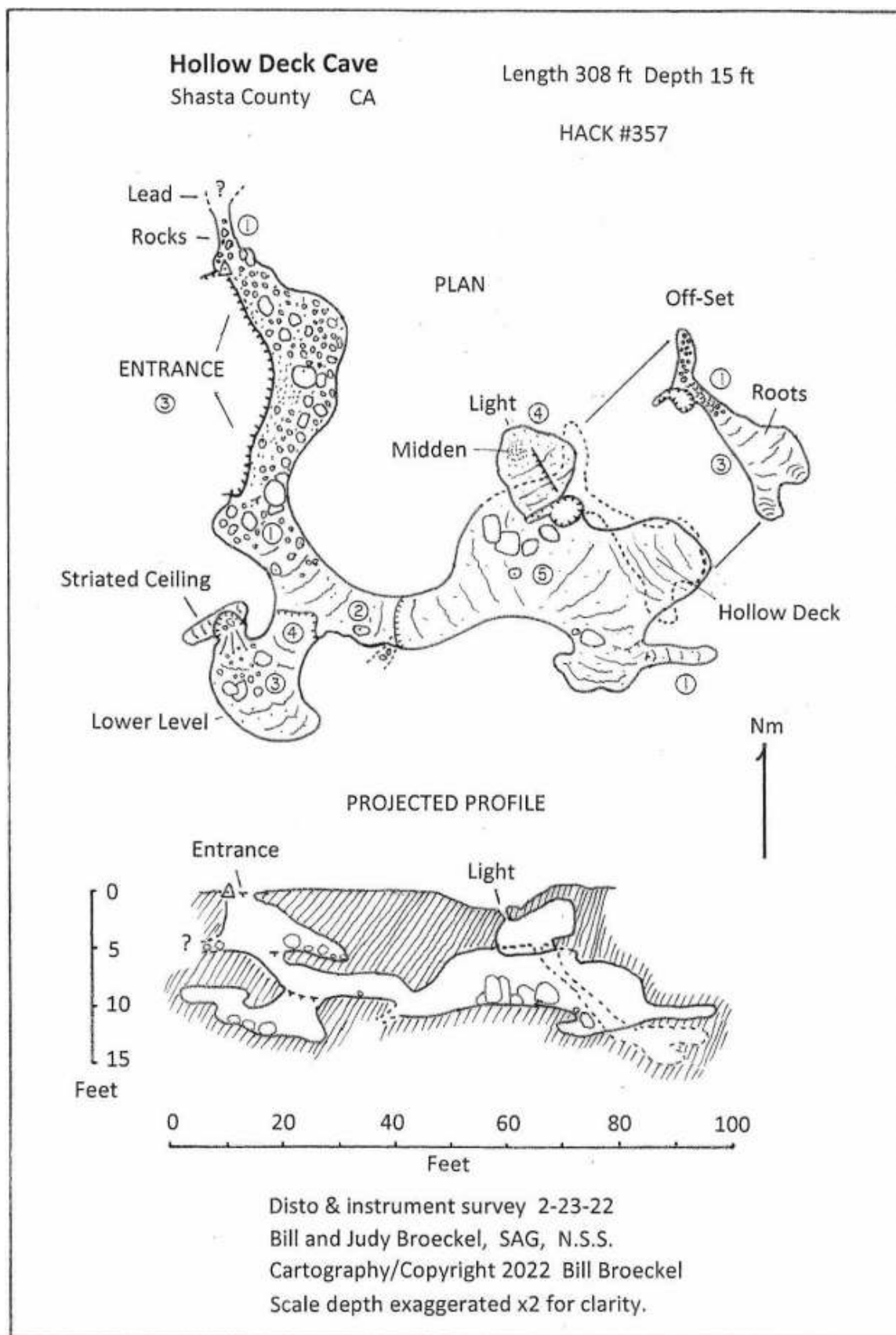
I think this method is well suited for areas with a high density of caves, especially where caves tend to cluster in a bunch. Of course we often see linearity of caves, but this is not a disadvantage if this situation is used to inform the choice of approach direction. Note also that each known cave has 360 different approach directions (degrees on the compass), of course dependent on what kind of diameter you are applying. The extremes in diameter both lead to diminishing returns, so this becomes an important consideration in the planning process. Still, this search method can keep you busy for many trips.

Here are two recent examples that actually resulted in new caves getting found and added to the over-all grotto project, which has been conducted more or less intensely over the last some 40 years. First is a wonderful cave named Hollow Deck, over three hundred feet long. In this case, "Plan B" was looking for a lost cave named Sun Roof in a certain area. We picked a novel approach direction to reach this area, and this led us directly through a particularly dense thicket of manzanita. It was then that we stumbled onto a completely hidden cave entrance that was 3 feet high and 40 (yes, forty) feet wide. At one end a 1 foot high crawlway led down a slope, and opened up into larger passage and three levels of development. We then used up all of our remaining time doing exploration and survey of interesting cave with very little breakdown. We left one good lead that will involve moving aside some loose rocks.

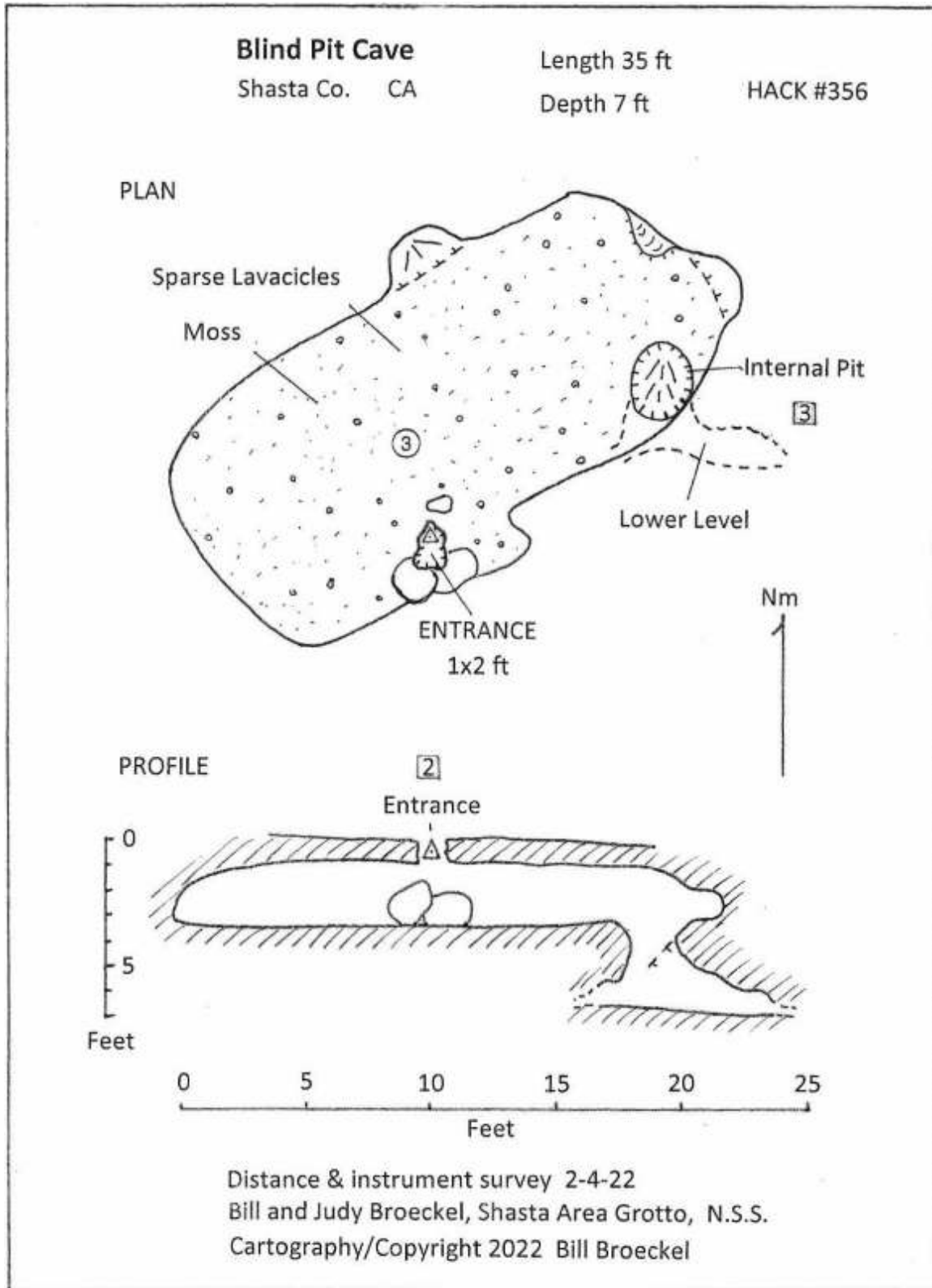
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Entrance to Hollow Deck Cave 2-23-22



Map: Hollow Deck Cave



Map: Blind Pit Cave

The second cave is called Blind Pit. Again "Plan B" was looking for Sun Roof, but from yet another direction. Again a new "Plan A" cave showed up. This was a much smaller cave, compared to Hollow Deck, smaller by an order of ten. But it still had its charm. The only breakdowns were the blocks that fell to the cave floor from the entrance hole. The entrance diameter was only a foot or so, but amenable with a bit of care. This accessed a clean entrance chamber about 3-ft high. To our dismay, there was not enough distance to meet project criteria, without an exemption (which has been applied to a couple of other too-small-but-still-worthy caves). But there was a hole on the floor near one end of the chamber. This also dropped through a one foot high situation down at a steep angle. A lower level was thus reached, allowing a caver to stretch out and lay quite comfortably in a coffin-like space, before attempting the struggle to pull him or herself up and out through the small hole in the floor that saved the dignity of Blind Pit Cave. Don't you just love caving?

So there you have it, two new caves and a modus operandi for finding more. Most recently, we found a third cave, much the same story. It is surveyed cave #360 on the project. We named it Compass Cave for the 360 degrees on the compass. In a future issue I plan to give some more project statistics, which I had on an old computer. The computer is now defunct, casualty of the lack of continuity that crops up in the computer world, but never mind, we can work something out. Good luck ridge-walking and happy caving to you this year. **BB**



Entrance to Blind Pit Cave 2-4-22



Grandma Judy with Freya at the Lime Kiln 1-14-22

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TO: