



Lloyd Bridges Cave interior 10-18-16



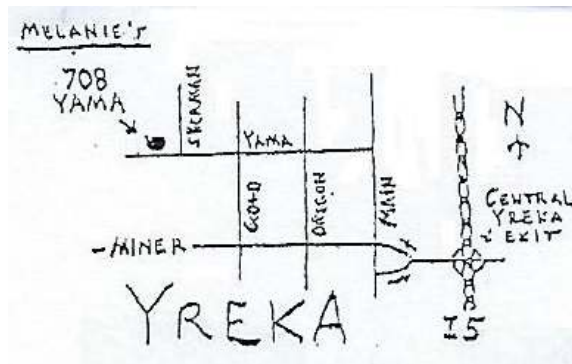
Lloyd Bridges Cave south entrance 10-18-16

INSIDE: Limestone Trip Reports, Shasta and Siskiyou County Lava Caves

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

Oct 29 7:30 pm at Mel's in Yreka



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bill Broeckel

For this July-Aug issue of SAG RAG, some big limestone cave trip reports were gleaned from chat on the list serve. There is an effort to preserve bylines and intent, but still forbearance is requested on the ramifications, such as changes in titling, venue, and readership, for example. Thank-you for that. What is forbearance anyway? Doing things to be nice to the old bears? That can't be it, so I looked it up on the old web, that is to say, Websters complete and unabridged dictionary, and it basically says "to be patient" as in "please be patient with your newsletter editor". Other than that, this particular instance of the newsletter is plumped up with small lava caves of which I am a great fan, and which continue to be found in seemingly endless supply. **BB**

COVER: Lloyd Bridges Cave inside and outside

June 25, 2022 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm at Stufflebeams in Lewiston.

Present were: Jim Wolff, presiding, Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Barbara and Mike Stufflebeam, Dave Smith and guests Tiffany Koopel and Neil Montgrain, likely joining the grotto.

Minutes from the April 2022 meeting were accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The current bank balance is \$475.94 plus \$116.00 petty cash.
Total = \$591.94.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: Up to date

SAG RAG REPORT: Not available

LISTSERV REPORT: No recent changes

2022 SAG CALENDAR:

Fri. June 24 to Sun. June 26 Grotto meeting at Stufflebeams in Lewiston, Hat Creek area caving.

Sat. July 23 Meeting at 7:30 at Bill and Judy Broeckel's. Activities TBD.

Sat. Aug. 27 Meeting at 7:30 at Steve's in McCloud. Activities TBD.

Friday Sept. 2 through Wed. Sept. 7 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. Payment should be in cash. 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. Let Steve know ASAP to reserve a mule. We will likely camp in the meadow below the springs the first day or two.

Sat. Sept. 24 Meeting 7:30 pm. at Wolffs', with a birthday or two. Planning for Oct. cave rescue practice. Other activities TBD.

Sat. Oct. 8 Cave rescue practice with Siskiyou SAR (tentative)

Sat. Oct. 29 Meeting at Melanie's in Yreka. Activities TBD.

Sat. Dec. 3 Meeting at 7:30 at Bill and Judy's, with cookies. Officer nominations and meeting scheduling for 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

Due to staff shortages at LABE the cave rescue practice scheduled for June was canceled. We will be talking with Siskiyou about an October 8 practice session.

continued

NEW BUSINESS:

KMCTF is looking to check Marbles caves for replacement or removal of ropes kept there.

The SAG Sept. Marbles trip has enough cavers to continue as planned.

Dave gave a brief summary of caves found in Tehama County from Lidar readings done (before Covid) for Tom Rickman. The Lidar picked up known and several new caves with pit entrances. A few minor horizontal caves were also found while checking the Lidar series.

TRIP REPORTS

Cavers at the June meeting (except Dave) searched for but didn't find Forest Glen and Marble Cave, but found two small (30') caves in the Marble Cave area.

Dave completed the LIDAR check in Tehama County, with a few caves still needing to be explored to confirm lengths, none likely large.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

David Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

APC Bat Check Trip Report – trip 3, May 20th, 2022

By Mandy Voss

Hi Everyone,

Sorry, this report is a little behind, due to James and I losing track of time during our last month to move.

James went and did a solo check on APC's Bat colony of the Townsend's Big-Eared Bats.

After entering the cave and accessing the changing room where most of the colony was on trip 2, he noted that the colony had *moved* to the down shaft about 20' down and *above* where the hand line is. There are approximately 17 bats in that colony. Upon further inspection, he noticed that there was another colony further down where the first pinch-off is on the hand line. He could not get a count due to having to pass the first colony. Though he thought that it was close to the same size as the first colony. There were also around 9 single bats throughout the down shaft area.

Thanks
Mandy Voss
On Thu, Jul 7, 2022

MV

Marbles Caves TR By Neil Montgrain

On June 25th, 2022 I found myself in a truck with 3 other people driving up a dirt mountain road somewhere outside of Redding. We were looking for caves, specifically Marble Cave, up in a limestone band a couple thousand feet off the river below. The group consisted of 3 SAG members, Jim, Mike, and Tiffany; plus myself (an eager sport).

Armed with fresh GPS coordinates of the main cave entrance we foolishly believed this to be a short, easy affair; it was not. A combination of the recent wildfires obliterating any hint of an existing path, and a nearly four decade ago recollection of the entrance had us mired in doubt. We spent the day searching fruitlessly for the main entrance, however we were able to locate two smaller passages in the cliffside. Each reached around 30-40 ft back and then died off; one had a rather impressive banana slug taking refuge from the summer heat in the far back of the rock. Eventually it was time to call it a day and we headed back to camp for dinner and the SAG meeting which was graciously hosted by Mike and Barbara Stufflebeam. On my return trip home the next day I could not resist returning to our search area from the previous day and allowed myself one hour to try and locate the entrance. After a bit of fuss descending through poison oak and the usual detritus associated with large burns in wildlands a cave entrance appeared. Thankfully no one had stolen it and it was right where it should be!

Many thanks to SAG for allowing me to come out, and a special thanks to the Stufflebeams for hosting the group.

Neil Montgrain

NM

Date: Tue, Jul 5, 2022 at 6:37 PM

Subject: Marbles Caves TR

SHASTA COUNTY LAVA CAVE REPORT Part 2 by Bill Broeckel

Introduction

The Jan-Feb 22 SAG RAG Shasta County Lava Cave Report (360 degrees and 360 caves) would be the Part 1. Part 1 featured recently surveyed Hollow Deck Cave and Blind Pit Cave. Likewise this here Part 2 also features two caves, but then goes on to include some project statistics which we were able to generate even though the old computer that has all the data stopped working.

Snuggle Bug Cave

The first cave is called Snuggle Bug. One day we were trying to find Rabbit Hole Cave, and stumbled upon to a couple new caves right in the middle of an area we thought was completely searched. One was a single room with one small entrance. The other was a wider entrance in the side of a lava tube that would later be called Snuggle Bug Cave. Inside, there was a small entrance chamber with a down-sloping north passage that kept going, so we knew it was a cave, a cave needing survey (CNS). Not having time to do it, we backed out and ran GPS on the entrance.

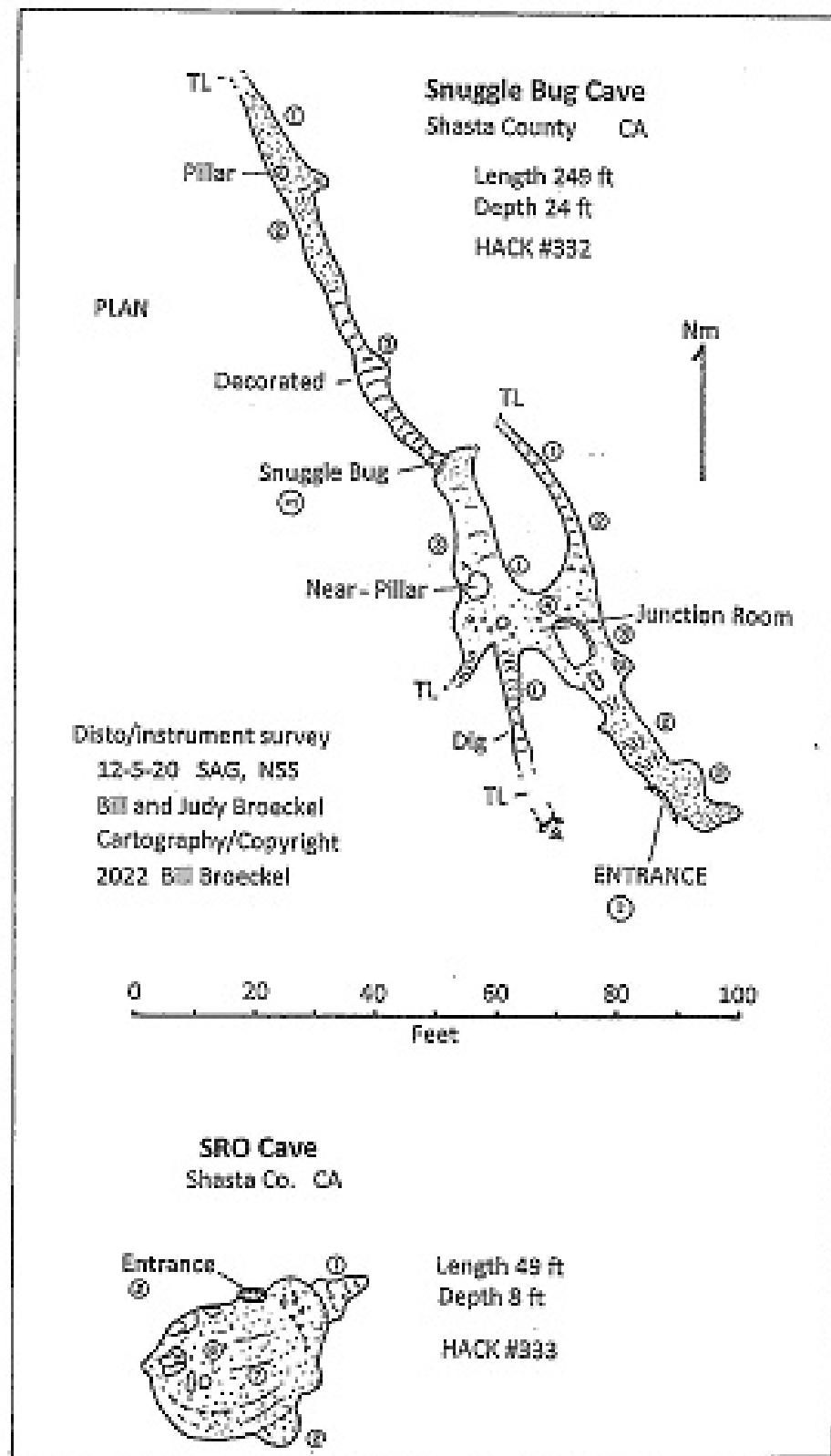
Pretty soon later, it was a couple years ago (Dec. 5, 2020), when we returned ready to map and of course we went straight to the going lead. We were happy to see that the hopeful crawlway descended further and opened up into a wider room/junction area with a chunk of breakdown in the middle, and several ways to go. The area is labeled "Junction Room" on the map.

First we kept going straight, into a tiny tube passage. It gently curved left and gradually got smaller and smaller until we could go no further. That penetration added some modest footage to the over-all cave length. Back in the Junction Room, at the far side, we probed into two more tiny tubes. One headed back up toward the survey datum point, located at a surface tube entrance that was too small to enter. Coming at it from the other direction, what do you know, it was still too small. The other one quickly petered out. But these two tiny tubes were also able to contribute to the total length.

That left just one more passage. This one was 1-ft high and headed down-flow, past a near-miss pillar which was barely attached to the left hand wall. Passage height improved to 3-ft and appeared to be coming to an end at a lava seal. However, a slot up on a small ledge was blowing cool air. We were barely able to comfortably slip through the smooth-surfaced slot, smoothness not being the general characteristic in this cave. But it was smooth right where it was needed the most. Hence, the "Snuggle Bug".

The decorated lava tube beyond the slot continued another 75-ft, sloping down, then flattening out over a sandy floor. Finally, the survey ended just past a breakdown pillar, where the passage kept going until it was just too low to continue (marked "TL" at the north end of the map). Total length for the cave was determined to be 249-ft.

continued



Map: Snuggle Bug Cave

SRO Cave

Back outside, a winter storm was holding off, so we still had time to surface survey over to the other cave, less than 100-ft away. We entered through the small, semi-skylight entrance. We took several spray shots on the in-cave survey for sketching purposes. I struggle to know how to determine cave length on these little "blob" caves, but somehow came up with 49-ft, including the 7-ft crawlway extension on the ledge at the north end. In this case, the greatest diameter disto measurement across the room was over 30-ft, so the void qualified as a cave, according to the criteria of the project, and without having to invoke the exception asterisk clause recently laid out in the project bylaws, or the "Scott House Rule" of CRF (Cave Research Foundation) notoriety. "If you think it's a cave, then it's a cave."

The chamber had standing room, and you could easily walk around in there. So it was named SRO Cave (Standing Room Only). Never mind the little cubbyholes around the periphery. On the map, SRO Cave appears in its proper position relative to Snuggle Bug Cave. I have no idea how these two caves are related to each other, except by proximity. They are quite different. Snuggle Bug is 5x longer and 3x deeper, but SRO has the biggest room. By the way, we were able to locate Rabbit Hole and grab a GPS on that elusive bugger. It is quite close to Charlie Bone Cave.

Project Statistics

As we mentioned last time, there are 360 surveyed caves in the Shasta County Lava Cave Project. Snuggle Bug is #332 and SRO is #333. They are numbered in the order that in-cave surveys have been initiated. Total length for the project is currently 56,764-ft, or 10.74 miles, of cave passage. That comes out to 17.2 kilometers, so the latest "milestone" in the project is in passing the 17 km mark. The average cave length in feet is 158. That pretty much tells you everything you need to know about these caves. The average height of cave passage must be something like 1.1-ft, but it probably just seems like that to us. Now if we can just get past some of this virus nonsense ...

NEWSFLASH: As of Oct. 2022, there are 367 surveyed caves on the project. So a person could stay out there for a year, and go into a different cave every day, and at the end of the year still have a couple caves left over.

BB

SISKIYOU COUNTY LAVA CAVES

By Bill Broeckel

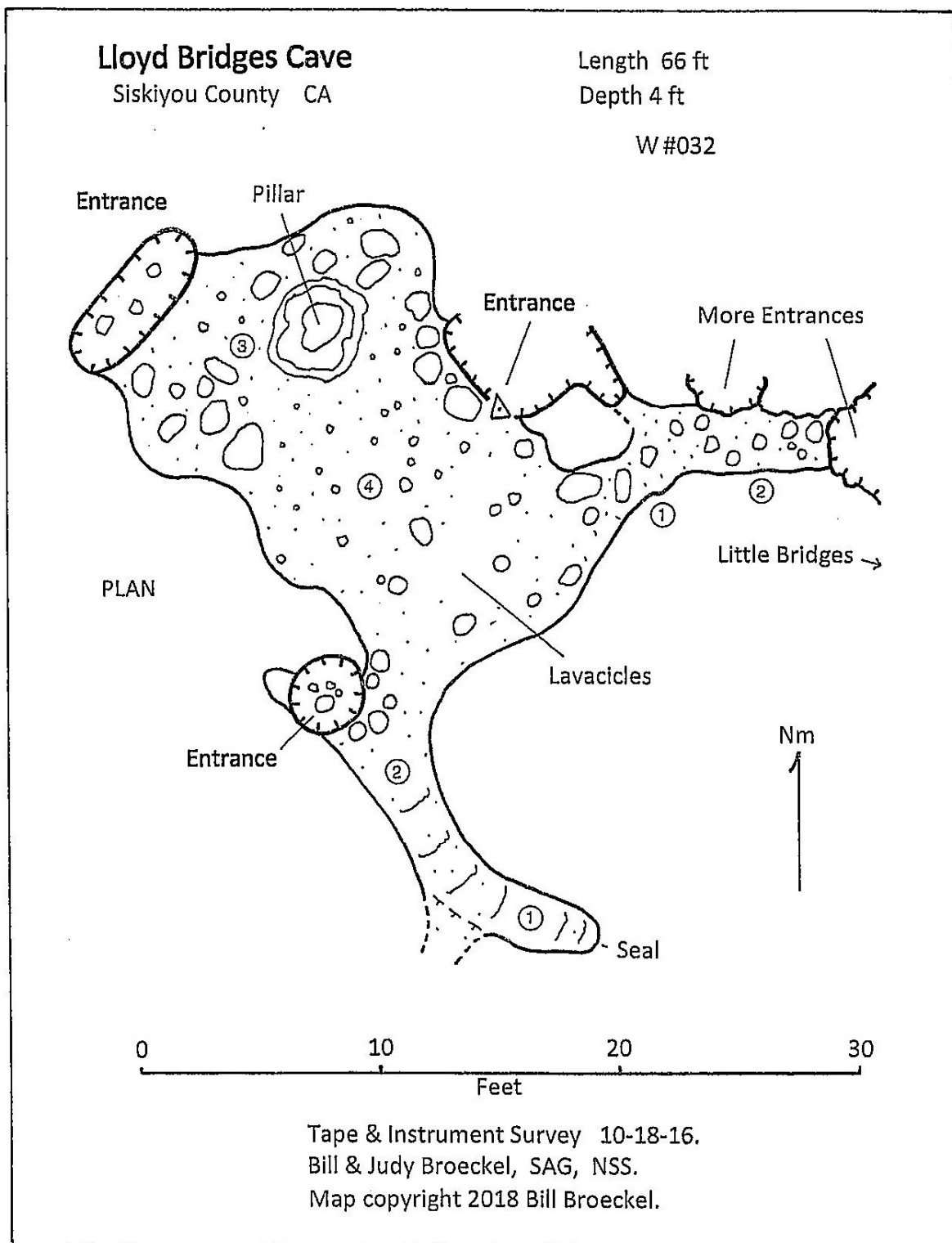
There are quite a few of them, like in the thousands of caves. In my mind, over the years of my own amateur and haphazard investigations, these caves have gradually organized themselves into rough groups, according to which lava flows they are found in. For example, one early group might be called the Gaping Holes Gang, caves loosely affiliated with the flow segment containing Catwalk Cave. The project system that is applied to the Shasta County lava caves seems to be working pretty well. So it is only natural to apply the same scheme to Siskiyou County, group by group. All together the scope is overwhelming, but breaking into groups makes it seem more manageable and workable, maybe.

So here is a report on a group in Siskiyou County which we will call the "W" group. Like in the Shasta County report, I will describe a couple caves, then give a group summary statement. In both counties, the majority of the caves are small. I would guess that there are maybe 20 small caves for every big one, maybe even more. First here goes descriptions on two small caves added to the W Group in the year 2016.

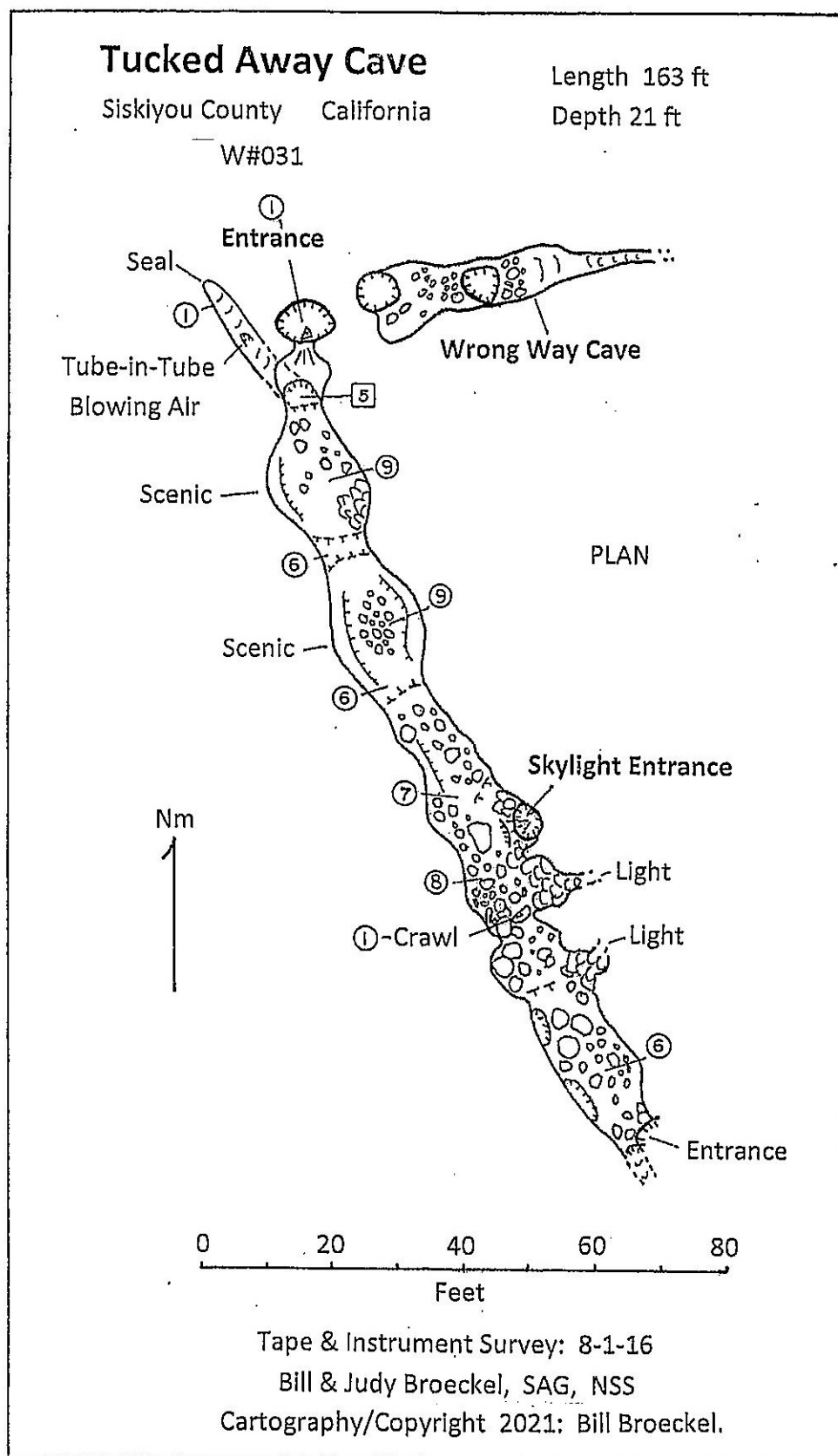
Lloyd Bridges Cave The multiple bridge-like entrances to Lloyd Bridges are found on a flat of smooth lava alongside a bend in a major Late Pleistocene lava trench. The main feature of the cave is the central room 4-ft high and decorated with lavacicles. Nothing really gets going very far away from the room, so the surveyed length of the cave is only 65-ft. Ideally, to project standards, there should be at least two photos of a cave, preferably one entrance photo and one interior (see newsletter cover for an example, taken from Lloyd Bridges).

The cave is named for the actor who played Mike Nelson on an old TV show called Sea Hunt. Most of the action involved either scuba divers fighting or boat chases. The bad guys might have knives or spear guns, and would often try to cut our hero's air hose. However, this Nelson guy could hold his breath and keep fighting for like ten minutes. In one episode, he rescues kids from an underwater cave. He was a great and moral character to emulate, but Sea Hunt is probably a big part of why I have never been much interested in scuba diving or cave diving. Despite its name, oddly enough, Lloyd Bridges Cave has no sumped passages. The cave was surveyed on 10-18-16.

continued



Map: Lloyd Bridges Cave



Map: Tucked Away Cave

Tucked Away Cave Wrong Way Cave starts big enough, but quickly narrows down to nothing. So forget about that one. Very near-by, Tucked Away Cave starts off like nothing, but opens up down below into a nice tube. We had to move some roots, loose rocks and dirt to get into where we could slide down a sloping dusty crawlway, dropping into cooler and damper conditions. The upflow passage "ended" but air flow was notable. Downflow are two tastefully decorated chambers. But then the cave starts looking smunched for some reason and begins presenting various associated obstacles. Daylight can be found, but the fact is that there is no easy way to get back out of this cave. Because of some loose rocks, I seem to recall that we decided to go back up the way we came down. Tucked Away Cave was surveyed on 8-1-16 to a depth of 21-ft and a length of 163-ft.

Stats for Group W Total surveyed caves number 55, the total combined passage survey length is 13,389-ft, and the average cave length is 243-ft. That compares favorably with the average length in Shasta County. For Group W, total length in miles is 2.54 and kilometers is 4.1. So hey, look at that, we just passed a KM marker on the Group W Project. Things are a little hit and miss on the W area because reasonable access depends on where the fallen trees are blocking the approach road on any given day. **BB**

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