



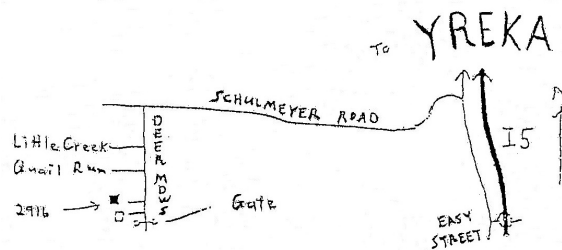
**Sand Cave (Siskiyou County) – Barbara, Dan, and Melanie stand by as Dave climbs through the breached gate. Extension ladder noted on left. Photo: Liz Wolff 9-24-22.**

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 3                      SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Broeckels in Yreka,  
Christmas cookies

Map to Meeting



### SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bill Broeckel

Liz Wolff reports on a September grotto clean-up effort to Barnum and Sand Cave with a good turn-out and work accomplished. Great job and thank-you to everyone involved, especially Anissa Velador for sharing her photos. Two recently mapped caves fill in the remainder of the newsletter, with more to come from the tumultuous tubes of Siskiyou County, as long as the lava cave map factories don't shut down. Stay safe, stay healthy, and try to go caving sometimes this winter. Trip reports etc. always welcome here.

**BB**

## July 23, 2022 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm at Broeckels' in Yreka.

Present were: Steve Hobson presiding, Sharon and Thorne Bertrand, Bill and Judy Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, CJ and Kit McKinley, Tessa Richards, Dave Smith, Mike Spiess, and Jim and Liz Wolff.

Minutes from the June 25, 2022 meeting were accepted as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The current bank balance is \$ 475.94 plus \$ 116.00 petty cash. Total = \$ 591.94, with \$10 not yet in accounts.

**WEBSITE AND E-RAG:** Up to date.

**SAG RAG REPORT:** There are enough articles for the next issue.

**LISTSERV REPORT:** No changes.

### 2022 SAG CALENDAR:

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. If you want to ride in on a horse that is extra. Steve will make a deposit to the packers and collect the money (cash only) from those of you planning on having your gear packed in a month beforehand. Let Steve know ASAP to reserve a mule. The mules will be loaded at 8:00 am on the 2nd, and at 11:00 am for the return on the 7th. 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. 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.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Neil Montgrain and Tiffany Koopal have joined the grotto.

The Shascade Caving Society may fold into SAG, with James Newell hopefully becoming a SAG member.

Mark Fritzke is making a steady recovery and can walk to a nearby creek now. Mel will send another card from all of us.

### OLD BUSINESS:

There is a bat maternity colony at APC, so it is closed to caving for now. A one week camping trip may be arranged at some point to check leads.

The Marbles trip is on, and will start with a night or two at the upper meadow to be closer to Crystal Drano, Upstairs Downstairs, and Apogee.

The KMCFT will likely pull the old Discovery entrance cave rope.

continued

**Sag July 23, 2022 Minutes, contd.****NEW BUSINESS:**

Jackson County OR SAR may be interested in joining the October rescue practice along with Siskiyou SAR. We will be looking at a location at LABE or in the Tennant area if Jackson County joins us.

Between now and next year we need to review our server and SAG RAG mailing lists to focus on members and on other cavers we interact with fairly regularly. It has become a somewhat disparate list and needn't be.

CJ will look into creating a Facebook page about the grotto, to include Liz's statement on caving, conservation and ethics as a point of focus for non-cavers interested in learning about the grotto.

**TRIP REPORTS**

Today's cave trip to the Water Caves Complex went well, apart from a falling rock Kit quietly deflected to be out of everyone's path at an early point. The group covered 4 of the cave segments, mostly with relaxed climbing and more comfort than the 90° surface temperatures. Sharon Bertrand has written a summary report for the SAG RAG.

Steve, his sister and grand niece visited Lovelock Caves, worth seeing, and Three Level Ice, ice free at this point..

CJ and Kit checked out Hourglass, James Bros., Irish Catwalk, S Canyon and Intruded, which does still have ice, and will write a report.

Bill has been in more small caves, including Kirby (34' x 2').

Liz and grandson Logan visited Blue Bucket and Badger Caves

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.**

David Smith, SAG Secretary

**DS**



Barnum Cave(Siskiyou County) – Shasta Area Grotto clean-up trip, picking up mostly broken glass. Photo: Anissa Velador 9-24-22.



**Barnum and Sand Cave Cleanup**      by Liz Wolff  
Photos by Liz Wolff and Anissa Velador

September 24, 2022

Participants: Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Kit & CJ McKinley, Dave Smith, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Jim & Liz Wolff, with guests Anissa Velador and Dan Mauro.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's Barnum Cave was owned by the Barnum family who used the cave to store food since it was a very cold cave. Sand Cave existed at the time but the only entrance was a small, tight, mostly sand & rubble blocked hole in a shallow sink. Since then Barnum Cave has been sold and re-sold and Sand Cave acquired a much larger, catastrophically opened entrance. Barnum is a cold cave as noted, and houses a hibernating colony of Townsend's big eared bats. Sand Cave is much warmer and houses a maternity colony of bats. Following a winter harassment of the bats which ended in around 200 bats being euthanized, both caves were gated by the Klamath National Forest (KNF) who had acquired them in a land swap. SAG helps out the KNF with cave clean-ups and monitoring of the gates. Barnum is 804' long and Sand is 975'.

Meeting at the Barnum Cave parking area at 11 am on Saturday Sept 24 the gang of 11 cavers hiked to Barnum Cave. Some difficulty was encountered with the locking bolts; it appears someone tried to saw them off or bash them into submission and damaged them in the process. But they eventually came off and the gate was opened. The cleanup began along the road in, and around the sink. About an hour was spent in the first chamber picking up most of the sparkly stuff we saw. One garbage bag and two back packs were filled with mostly broken glass. That chamber does not sparkle nearly as much as it did. Total trash amounted to about 20 pounds of trash, including 2 intact beer bottles and two very old rusty beer cans.

CJ found a dead and very desiccated bat hanging low on one wall. It could only be seen from the "right" angle. At the end of the sand floor most of the group scampered off to the upper levels after finding an end to the concentration of glass. One roosting and three flying bats were seen. Locking the gate again proved challenging since the locks were damaged.

**Sand Cave:** Using a 12' ladder for entry into the skylight the group found the sinkhole surprisingly clean. The cut bars from the gates have not been repaired; they are still alongside the wall out of sight. Climbing up and through the breached gate to the uphill end of the cave some possibly new spray paint was noted. About 50 or 60 active bats were seen.

In the long downhill end of the cave very little trash was found to be picked up. In the downhill end of the cave only one loose basketball-sized clump of bats was seen, and when looked for minutes later, no bats were evident. Mike is the only one who braved the low, smooth crawl to the bitter end of the cave. He noticed it seemed to have more sand than he remembered from his first visits; of course that was 40 or more years ago. He remembers the time that road equipment broke into the cave and it was informally called Caterpillar Cave. Later it was called New Cave and later still, Sand Cave.

LW



Barnum Cave (Siskiyou County) – The very desiccated bat found in cave by CJ.  
Photo: Anissa Velador 9-24-22.

## Group G Review

By Bill Broeckel

Lately we have reviewed Group W of Siskiyou County lava caves. This time we will look at Group G. The PlanB/PlanA scheme of operations has paid off with a handful of lesser known caves for the G Group during the last couple pandemic years. This group also benefits from a slightly longer caving season compared to some of the other Siskiyou County groups.

The two longest caves are featured in this report. These two are about 1 or 2 tenths of a mile away from each other. Sarcophagus Cave is a surface tube elaborated with a short but interesting loop of lower level. Total passage length is 206-ft. Vaping Voles, by contrast, is a larger scale lava cave 378-ft in measured passage length and 2-3x deeper.

Group G has two more similar scale caves awaiting final maps (don't hold your breath, I've been pretty busy elsewhere you know). Current Group G stats are 28 caves and 13,400-ft of passage. Catwalk Cave accounts for over a mile of that figure and helps carry Group G to a robust 450-ft average cave length. **BB**



Judy Broeckel, with two feet in Sarcophagus, prepared to take notes 5-1-22.

**Sarcophagus Cave**      Siskiyou County

**Description:** Sarcophagus Cave is like two different caves on either side of a small window connecting passage. The main casket-like 1<sup>st</sup> entrance accesses the eastern half, a typical low surface tube with light leaks and an optional 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance. There appears to be a parallel passage to the north, just too low for our survey effort. We also had our doubts about the connecting window passage, but when we tried it we were able to get through to the west half of the cave. This is a donut shaped loop passage, with half of the donut being at a lower level. The 3<sup>rd</sup> cave entrance actually comes down through the "donut hole". I would say the window connection is more fun than the "donut hole" entrance. All together the cave has (3) entrances, 206-ft total passage length, and 12-ft of depth.

**History:** A sarcophagus is a rock casket. Literally, the word means "flesh eating" and makes for an ominous cave name. In reality, this is a nice little cave that just happens to have a main entrance 3x9-ft and shaped like an ancient sarcophagus.

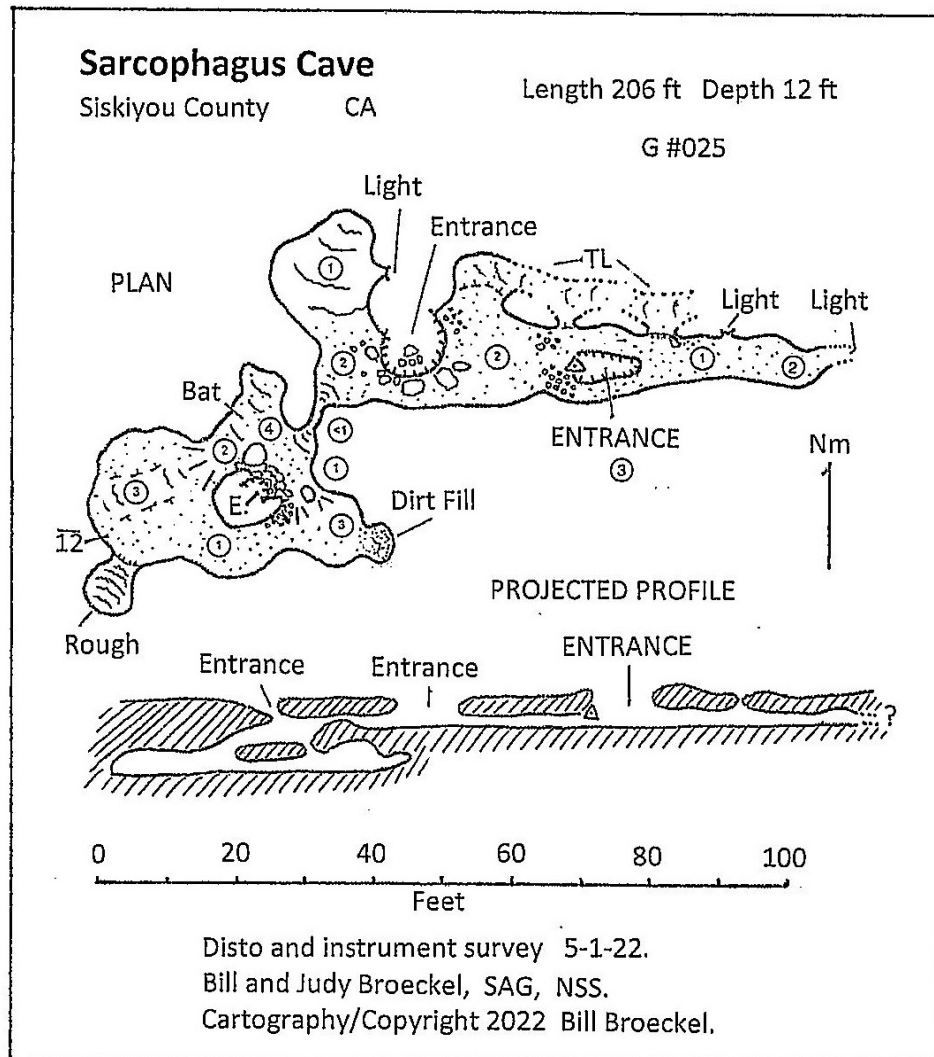
**Geology:** Sarcophagus Cave is oriented east-to-west, and has close proximity to the "cave-less sinkhole" which is likely a rootless vent along the Catwalk Cave continuum, such that Sarcophagus Cave is a localized phenomenon resulting from a lava flooding/subsiding event out from the depths of Catwalk Cave. That would make Sarcophagus Cave a weirdly placed re-entry feature. Nearby Ant Cave would also be an upflow piece of the same feature.

**Biology:** One flapping bat was heard during naptime in the roomy 4-ft high passage.

<b>Trip Reports:</b> #1 Apr. 6, 2022	Entrance noted as a "cave needs survey" (CNS).
#2 May 1, 2022	Survey by Broeckels, expectations exceeded.
#3 May 4, 2022	Donut loop done via "donut hole" (3rd) entrance.

**BB**





Map: Sarcophagus Cave



Heart-shaped back entrance to Sarcophagus Cave 5-4-22.

## Vaping Voles Cave      Siskiyou County

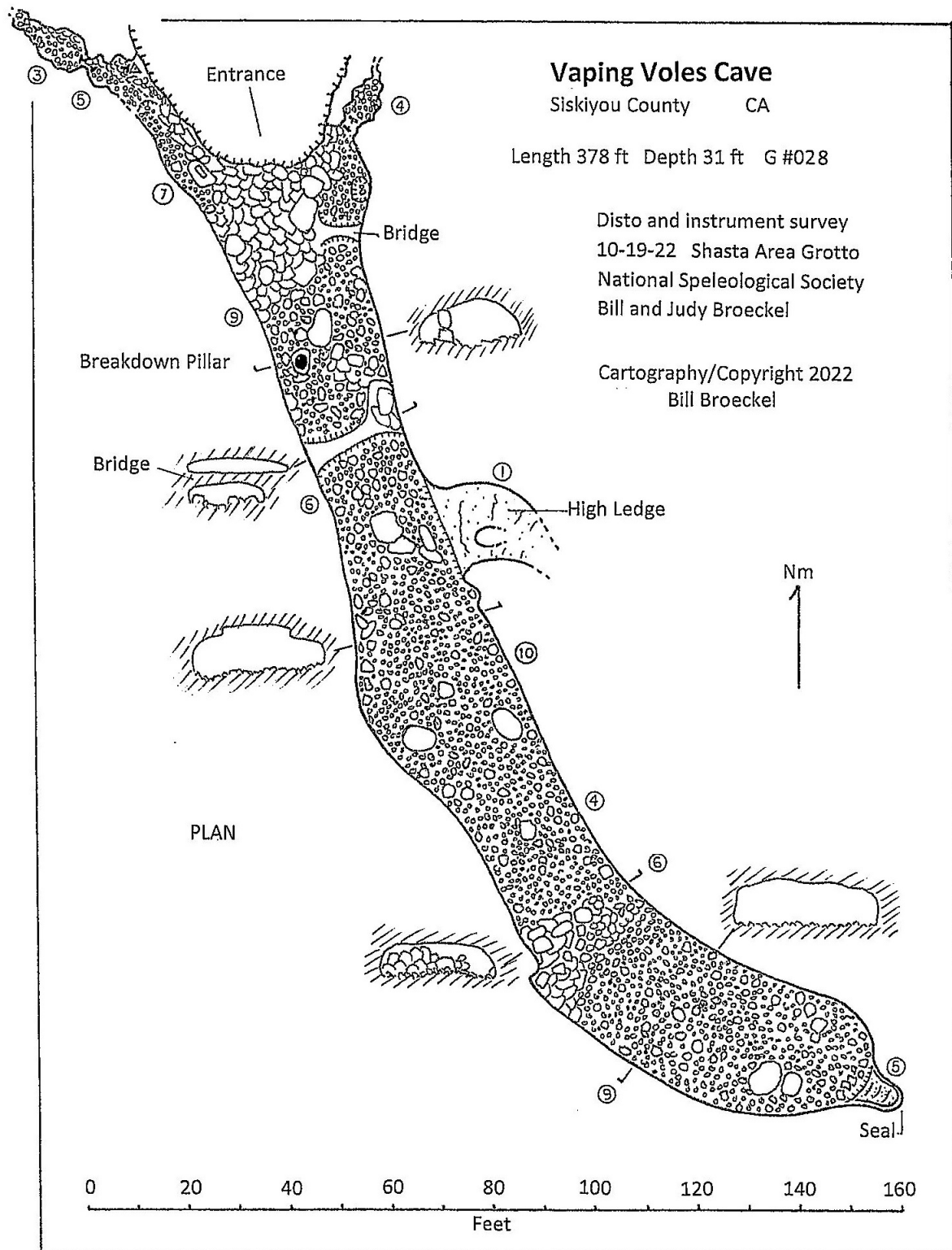
**Description:**      Description: The main borehole lava tube passage extends into dark zone and is quite roomy. In fact, the passage can be conceptually divided into three distinct rooms, divided by a fine bridge feature in the first case, and then by a rampart of lava blocks in the second. The bridge is best ducked under, and the rampart is easily turned on the left. The first room also features another smaller bridge and an interesting pillar of breakdown. Turning the rampart also involves a down slope, as the third room lies at a slightly lower level. The end is a perfect seal in a small alcove with its very few feet of original surfaces. The entire rest of the cave is floored with rubble and breakdown, except for the high ledge passage. Here awaits a low, broad crawlway up near the ceiling on the east side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> room. This remains as a challenging access lead that goes at least 20-ft and perhaps around a likely pillar. Finally, short breakdown passages are found along both walls near the entrance. Total length is 378-ft and depth 31-ft.

**History:**      We first laid our eyes on the entrance to Vaping Voles Cave on May 4, 2022. We checked it as far as the larger bridge where a zone of heavy seasonal ice was encountered. Later that year we returned on survey, starting in the breakdown of the west trench wall, where a short passage was easily and definitively connected to the main part of the cave. The main cave was surveyed next, with final details checked on one later visit. Abundant burnt wood fragments were noted on the last two visits, and were observed in all three rooms. Earlier visitation is thus suspected, same basis as at Beacon Light Cave in Lava Beds.

**Geology:**      Vaping Voles Cave passage represents intermediate levels to even deeper Catwalk Cave, though no actual connection point was proven.

**Biology:**      Evidence of a *Corynorhinus townsendii* night roost feeding station was observed not far in from the entrance. Actual bats were not detected.

<b>Trip Reports:</b> #1 May 4, 2022	Significant cave entrance identified.
#2 Sept 24, 2022	Survey initiated in west entrance breakdown.
#3 Oct 19, 2022	Surveyed main passage to the end (lava seal).
#4 Oct 30, 2022	Some last minute details added for the map.



Map: Vaping Voles Cave



Judy Broeckel at the end of Vaping Voles Cave 10-19-22.

**SAG RAG**  
2916 Deer Mdw Rd  
Yreka CA 96097

**STAMP**

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