

sag rag

41:6 Nov-Dec 2022



Main entrance to Cat Run Cave 4-06-2022

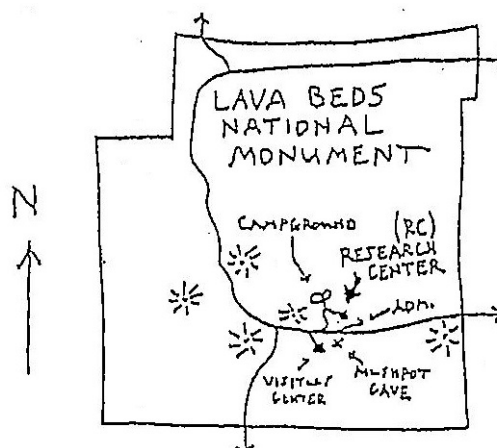
Inside: Cat Run Cave and Greeleys Annex

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 Calender 2023

Feb. 25 SAG meeting 7:30 Research Center, Lava Beds National Monument

Map to the Meeting



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bill Broeckel

Sag Rag finishes up Volume 41 with a couple loose ends from Siskiyou County lava tubes. Cat Run Cave was a casual and distant mental note that happened on the way to Catwalk Cave's Moss Carpet Entrance, many years ago. Just a small entrance to a possible superficial lava tube, it was merely and mentally noted as something to check someday. But here's the thing – we are not positive it's the same small entrance... Likewise, Greeley's Annex is a loose end, though in a different way. It was surveyed ten years ago, but remains incomplete because of a scary looking un-dropped breakdown pit. Is this the long lost Greeley's Pit? The way things look, this appears to be a long shot, though still needing to be explored. In the meantime, here is a partial map of Greeley's Annex, showing the aforementioned pit as a dashed line lead in the breakdown pile. The map presents the site as a cave, but also as a lead.

Next issue we are hoping for reports on the most recent Shasta Caverns trip, and also for the January 23 grotto trip which yielded a newly described and surveyed Siskiyou County limestone cave, however lowly it may be.

BB

Aug 27, 2022 SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm at Steve's in McCloud.

Present were: Steve Hobson presiding, Melanie Jackson, Tiffany Koopal, CJ and Kit McKinley, Dave Mundt, Tessa Richards, Dave Smith, Barbara and Mike Stufflebeam, and Jim and Liz Wolff.

Minutes from the July 2022 meeting were accepted as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The current bank balance is: \$495.94 plus \$116.00 petty cash.
Total = \$611.94.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: There are no immediate plans for fixing the website.

SAG RAG REPORT: Bill has enough articles for the next issue.

LISTSERV REPORT: Up to date.

2022 SAG CALENDAR:

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

Fri. Sept 30 - Sun. Oct 2 NSS Western Regional, Great Basin National Park.

Sat. Oct 8 Cave rescue practice with Siskiyou SAR and possibly Jackson County OR 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 in Yreka, with cookies. Officer nominations and scheduling for 2023

CORRESPONDENCE:

Joel Despain has sent out the CRF report on the Klamath Mountains Project for 2019-2021. It includes a piece by Dave Mundt on the history of Baird, Samwel and Potters Creek caves.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Marbles trip has been canceled, as the mules had to be evacuated due to the August McKinney fire. The fire also closed Scott Road, Indian Scotty Camp, and the PCT for part of the month.

CJ has created a Facebook page: "Shasta Area Grotto," with a welcoming introduction to caving taken in part from (Liz's) cave introduction on our membership application form.

We don't yet have an update on whether Jackson County OR SAR and/or Siskiyou SAR will be able to do cave rescue practice with us in Oct.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Mundt is looking at November (quieter season) dates for SAG to visit Shasta Caverns.

continued

Steve and James Newell are planning an October camping trip in the lower Gray Rocks area, including Boy Scout, Riley, and Critter Cave. The APC cleanup is on hold due to continuing bat activity.

TRIP REPORTS (not complete, I couldn't keep up but there will be some trip reports - DS)

Today was the Triple Sticks exploration trip. The entrance drop is about 6', with a grabby, tight squeeze. CJ will do a report on this, the Breadbowl Cave and a multi-entrance cave (11 Pillars) between the Roadside Complex and Breadbowl, about a 1200 crawl with many pillars and a parallel crawl not entered. [Update: the cave was mapped by Bill Broeckel and Mark Jones (CRF).]

Yesterday Tessa, CJ and Kit also visited BLM Cave, and last month Catwalk.

CJ and Kit took part in the Mother Lode Grotto's 60th anniversary trip to Angel's Camp, visiting Take it for Granite (with a repel to a waterfall and small cave lake).

Mike Stufflebeam looked up Chris Kennedy for the location of Marble Cave and got out to it – the cave is limestone with scallops and clay mud.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

David Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

December 3, 2022 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting (and cookie exchange) was called to order at 7:50 pm at Broeckel's in Yreka.

Present were: Jim & Liz Wolff, Mike Stufflebeam (with bat cookies), Mike Spiess, Dave Mundt, Melanie Jackson, Steve Hobson (Chair), Bill & Judy Broeckel, and Sharon & Thorne Bertrand.

TREASURER'S REPORT: James Newell paid in \$20 on dues. Total Grotto balance \$631.94.

LISTSERV REPORT: . Up to date with two persons recently added. Mike Spiess opts for e-rags.

CORRESPONDENCE:

WCC (Western Cave Conservancy) Volcano fundraising in progress.

2023 SAG CALENDAR:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| January 28 | Limestone cave trip meets at Gazelle Elementary School at 9:00 am with meeting to follow 7:30 pm at Melanie's in Yreka. |
| February 24 | Planning meeting scheduled on Friday for a Lava Beds/Search & Rescue (SAR) training event in June, with Steve Hobson, Liz Wolff, David Hayes (Resource), Park Superintendent, Law Enforcement, and Sharon, Thorne, and Mel in coordination with Siskiyou County SAR. This is to focus on orientation for the summer crew at Lava Beds including the interpretive guides and front office. The SAR team may also have some separate training curriculum. A similar event last year was canceled. |
| February 25 | Saturday Grotto meeting 7:30 pm in the Research Center, loop project activities, and possible cave survey school emphasis on keeping book, depending on how |

continued

many bowling pins Liz Wolff can juggle. Also of note is a new Research Center stay-over group charge of \$58 per night. Kit and CJ are planning to attend.

- March 25 Meeting at Wolff's in McCloud, activity to be determined.
- April 29 Meeting at Hobson's in McCloud, with rope training.
- May 20 Meeting at Bertrand's in Mt. Shasta, prep for Lava Beds (see above).
- June 9-11 Cave rescue training event at Lava Beds.
- June 18 Weekend campout, with caving and meeting at Hat Creek.
- July 29 To be announced.
- August 26 Meeting at Wolff's in McCloud.
- September 23 To be announced.
- October 21 Meeting at Stufflebeam's, various solution caves in consideration.

Other caving plans to watch for include **Mar/Apr week-long camp out** to Lower Grey Rocks, **Marbles trip with mules August 30 to Sept 4**, possible **late September to mountain caves** yet to be decided, and **October week-long camp out** near Lake Shasta (be ready for vertical), with various ideas put forward. Also, some work trips are anticipated for two caves with damage control issues. Watch for changes with a conservation oriented agenda at Samwel. Likewise, the damage from recent vandalism in Palace is being assessed. The cave is currently secured including a new physical lock on the airlock gate. More work is still needed on the gates with design, measurements, parts, and logistics in progress, care of James and Brad and a Forest Service budget. Other ideas involve monitoring and video.

NOMINATIONS:

Dave Smith is stepping down from his long stretch as Grotto Secretary. The Grotto thanks Dave for his many years of excellent service at this post. Dave Mundt humbly indicates his availability to assume this role. Melanie Jackson, Jim Wolff, and Steve Hobson agree to continue as Treasurer, Vice-Chair, and Chair, respectively. All of these candidates run unopposed except by write-ins. Members present approved the slate. Members not present at the meeting may e-vote by e-mail to Dave Smith.

NEW BUSINESS:

No word on SAG's NSS website. Mike Spiess has some insightful comments and agrees to collaborate with Dave Smith. CJ is helping with SAG's presence on Facebook, where Steve is the Chief Poster. Dave Mundt is requesting some of the Grotto business cards for distribution at Shasta Caverns. General discussion on aging and the future of the Grotto.

TRIP REPORTS:

Shasta Caverns! Thank-you to Dave Mundt. This was a wonderful Grotto cave trip and experience. Cole took pictures, and a written trip report is anticipated. When available, the Grotto determines to send a color printed copy to Shasta Caverns.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Broeckel (for Dave Smith)

BB

MORE ON GROUP G

By Bill Broeckel

With real winters in 2022 and 2023, it naturally helped focus attention to Group G, a drier area with slightly longer seasonal access. There is now survey data on 28 caves, and actual cave maps for 25 of those 28. The two most recently completed maps are highlighted in this report. The three still without maps are just little guys. There are also leads or caves awaiting survey, probably about ten if I tried hard, off the top of my head. So we are certainly not done with Group G, never mind all the other caves out there still waiting to be found out. Meanwhile here are descriptions and maps of those two latest submissions: Cat Run Cave 115-ft long, and Greeleys Annex 355-ft long and 48-ft deep. **BB**

GREELEYS ANNEX Siskiyou County Shasta-Trinity National Forest 1-31-2023

Location Greeleys Annex is a lava tube. GPS location data is in the field notes.

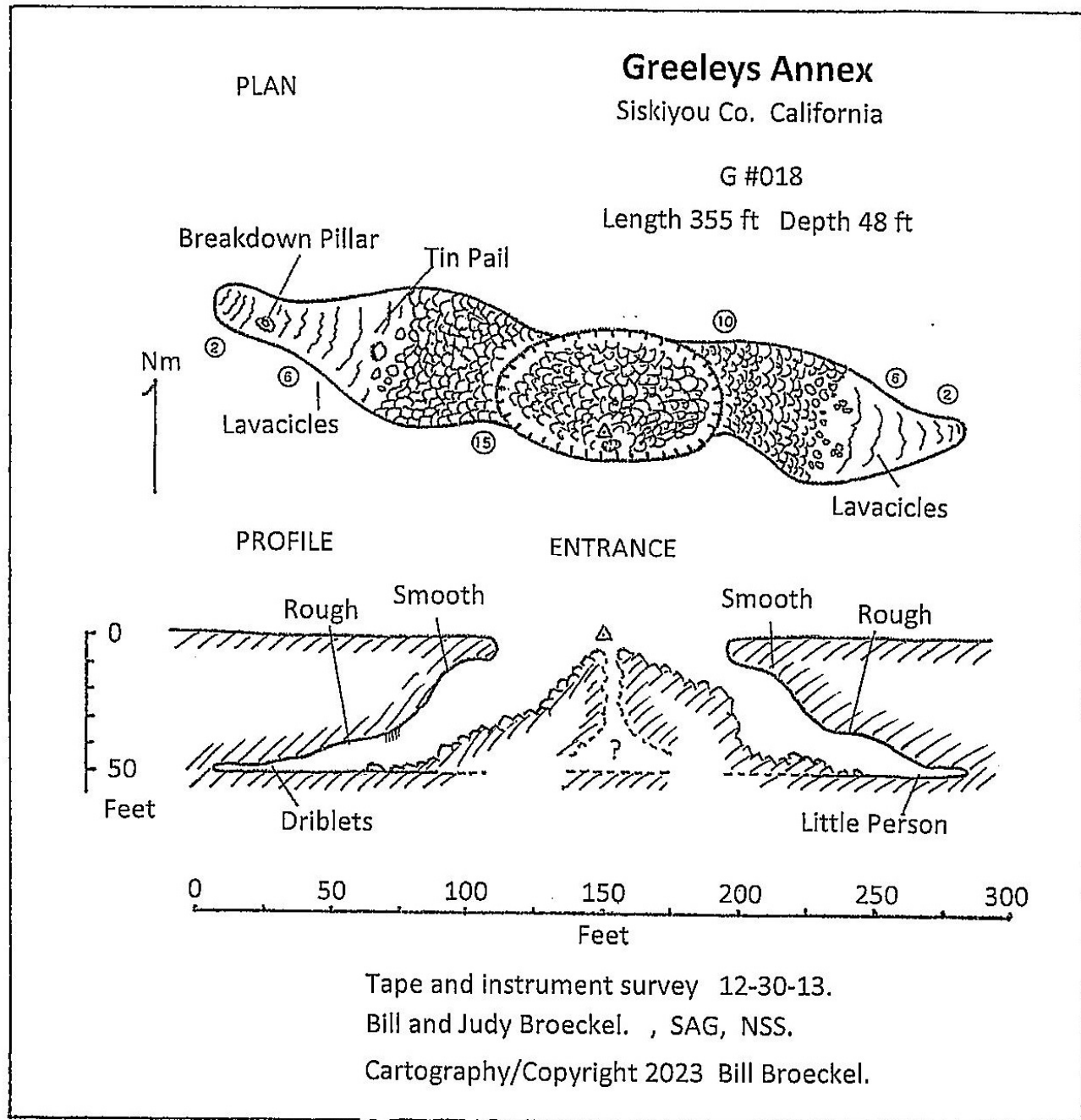
Description The entrance to Greeleys Annex is a grand and elongated sinkhole, a good example of the traditional Gaping Holes prototype cave. This sink is easily climbable to reach both ends of the cave (east and west), total length 355-ft and depth nearly 50-ft below the surface. Along the way are original, unbroken surfaces, and interesting features such as lavacicles, lava stalagmites, roots, textures, and short terminal crawls. An un-dropped pit in the breakdown near the south edge of the sinkhole appears to reach floor level, or might be burrowed into from the side. This certainly deserves further attention, and might even possibly represent the long lost Greeleys Pit, as detailed by Bruce Rogers (Cal Caver 31:3, Sep 1980, p. 37).

History: Tin pail fragments were found in the west end passage on 12-30-2013.

Geology: Greeleys Annex provides another reference point in the large scale of the Gaping Holes Lava Tube System, but may not be reaching the deepest levels.

Biology: No bats were seen. There were some curtains of plant roots from the ceiling.

Trip Reports #1 Dec 30, 2013 Entrance located and cave surveyed.



Map: Greeleys Annex



Looking east from the west passage in Greeley's Annex 12-30-2013



Root curtain in west passage of Greeley's Annex 12-30-2013

CAT RUN CAVE Siskiyou County Shasta-Trinity National Forest 1-30-2023

- Location:** Cat Run Cave is a lava tube. GPS location data is in the field notes.
- Directions:** From the Catwalk Cave Moss Carpet entrance, look northwest a short distance. West of the "cave-less sinkhole," find the west-facing main entrance 4-ft high and 12-ft wide.
- Description:** Cat Run Cave has two entrances, and an additional small skylight. The main entrance (4x12-ft) provides immediate access to a generous and welcoming entrance chamber 4-ft high. Beyond a fanciful mushroom-shaped pillar, a wide passage heads south to a break-down area where the surface can be regained through a small, but easily climbed, back entrance. At the north end of Cat Run, a short, low crawl opens into a small room 2-ft high. Breakdown blocks continuation at the back of the room, but the cave does offer several small leads or short passages in other areas. Total current length is 115-ft and depth is 5-ft.
- History:** "Cat run" is translated from French wording for a small crawl. While the cave surely does have some cat runs, the name is a play on its proximity to nearby Catwalk Cave.
- Geology:** Cat Run Cave appears to be formed in overflow from the adjacent dome fountain, or rootless vent, previously mentioned as the "cave-less sinkhole".
- Biology:** No bats or cats were seen in Cat Run Cave.
- Trip Reports:**
- | | | |
|----|-------------|--|
| #1 | May 4, 1996 | Back entrance noted on Grotto Catwalk Cave trip. |
| #2 | Apr 6, 2022 | Survey trip starting at back entrance. |
| #3 | May 1, 2022 | Photo stop at main entrance. |

LOW MOMENTS IN CAVING LITERATURE Cat-holes, cat-runs, and cat-walks

These feline cave related descriptors appear in the French, from books written by famous speleologists circa 1950s. Let's begin with Norbert Casteret. "There are numerous cases on record of speleologists becoming wedged or pinned down in narrow passages, in catholes or 'flatteners'. The victim is usually extricated with greater or less difficulty, and departs with nothing worse than sprains in various joints, loss of skin, and reduction to stark nudity which is as embarrassing to the captive as it is diverting to his friends". (Casteret, Norbert. "The Darkness Under the Earth" page 144). One plate between pages 40 and 41 is captioned "Negotiating a cat-hole".

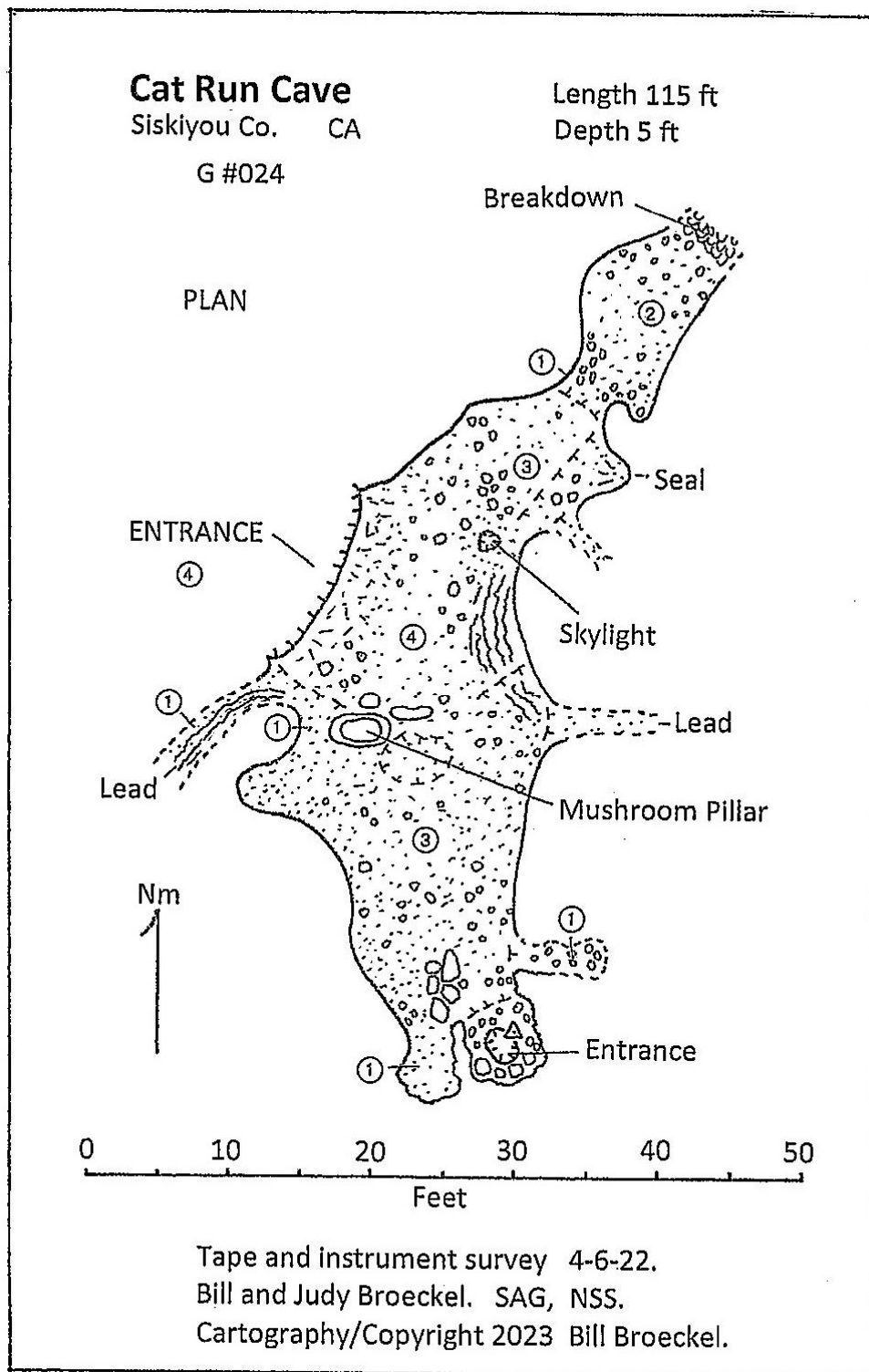
Pierre Chevalier uses the similar term in his classic "Subterranean Climbers" while describing his diminutive fellow caver named Charlie. "Not very tall, as thin as a herring,

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he was the featherweight who could wriggle through all the cat-runs." (page 103}. A suitable passage in the cave was even deemed "The cat-run". "This (Lantern} shaft consists of three abrupt leaps, each of about forty to fifty two feet; from its base runs a very narrow passage, the cat-run." (page 26}. And then again, "At the shaft bottom the gallery resumed, but soon the vault pressed down low above us and we had to crawl for twenty yards or so; the carriage lantern had to pass through sideways. At the end of this cat-run was a bifurcation; as the right branch seemed ampler, we went that way." (page 28). Interestingly, this area of the cave is labeled as "Cat-walk" on the Tru Du Glaz cave map shown on page 24. {Chevalier, Pierre. "Subterranean Climbers"). **BB**



Back entrance to Cat Run Cave 4-6-2022



Map: Cat Run Cave



Judy Broeckel at Cat Run Cave 5-01-2022

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TO:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1	Cat Run Cave entrance
Page 2	Calendar and Summary – B. Broeckel
Page 3	SAG Minutes Aug 2022 – Dave Smith
Page 4	SAG Minutes Dec 2022 – B. Broeckel
Page 6	More on G Group – B. Broeckel