



Echolocation Capable?

**INSIDE: Marbles Report, Pluto's Clean-up, New maps of old caves,
Grogu Cave, and music**

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.

Address Change: Beginning Nov 1, 2023 please send material for publication to Dave Smith, 321 Mesa Verde Ct., Chico, CA 95973 or <theotherdavesmith@gmail.com>. Bill has been SAG RAG editor since issue 12(5) in 1993. He and Judy will be moving to Seattle at the end of the year to be closer to family. It's been 30 years (!) Bill, we will miss you!

CAVE CALENDAR 2023-2024

Sat Dec 2 Meeting at 7:30 at Bill and Judy's, with cookies. 2024 Officer nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (Names can be sent to Dave, theotherdavesmith@gmail.com, with the nominee's approval).

Sat Jan 27 Meeting at 7:30 at Steve's. Vote talleys. Activity TBD.

Sat Feb 24 Meeting at 7:30 at Liz and Jim's in McCloud. Activity TBD.

Sat March 23 Meeting at 7:30 at Melanie's in Yreka. Activity TBD.

SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bill Broeckel

Liz Wolff and Mark Fritzke really came through with some excellent written cave content for this SAG RAG. What makes it even better is that these local (Siskiyou County) documents are in fact "Part Ones", meaning that we can look forward to the second parts to be published in the next issue of the RAG, as the documentation and elaboration of the north state cave resource continues to be expanded and illuminated. Thanks to Mark and Liz.

There is an odd item on page 8. I put in a copy of a music program from a College of the Siskiyous (COS) concert last spring. Local musicians were featured, including some connected with Shasta Area Grotto. See if you can pick out the cavers who actually performed in the concert; much to the delight of other grotto members who attended. Hint: start at the bottom of page 8b and work your way up. This of course is just a way to show, how actually cultured, civilized and accomplished are the cavers of the Shasta Area.

This issue of the RAG is finished up with another random lava tube that we have looked at this last decade. This one is called Groggu after the Star Wars character from the Mandalorian. Well, you know, he was kind of a cute little baby Yoda thing, and it was sort of a cute little cave, and so on. I was thinking that maybe with those big bat ears he has, and his big eyes, that maybe he would like going into caves, seeing and listening to things, and maybe we could make Groggu an honorary member of the grotto. So anyway, that's how he ended up as a cave name, and his mug on the newsletter cover.

Have a great Fall, except that's not a good thing to say to a caver, so instead let's say "Have a great Autumn."

BB

July 29 2023 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm. at Dry Camp.

Present were: Steve Hobson presiding, Sharon Bertrand, Melanie Jackson, Finn Kavulic, CJ and Kit McKinley, Luke Rogap, Dave Smith, Mike Spiess, Mike Stufflebeam, Dave Todd, Pat Witt, Jim & Liz Wolff, and Vivek Zilpelwar.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No change from previous minutes.

WEBSITE AND E-RAG: Both doing OK

FACEBOOK: going well, Kit reports that it is drawing steady interest from new cavers.

SAG RAG REPORT: Bill has articles and maps for two caves for the next issue.

LISTSERV REPORT: No changes.

2023 CALENDAR:

Sat. Aug. 26 Meeting at 7:30 at Steve's in McCloud. Rope practice.

Friday Sept. 2 through Wed. Sept. 7 Marbles trip with mules. The round trip cost for the mules is \$225 including tip, with a limit of 75 lbs. of gear per person. Camping will be in the Upper Meadows, with Crystal Springs, Hissing Stream, Apogee, Upstairs-Downstairs, Roto Rooter, Crystal Drains and Bruce Springstream caves nearby. 9 persons are signed on.

Fri. Sept. 22 – Sat. Sept. 23 Meeting at Stufflebeams in Lewiston, caving at Manzanita Ridge or Natural Bridge area.

Sun. Oct. 22 – Sun. Oct. 29 McCloud Bridge Campground. Meeting 7:30 Sat.

Sat. Dec. 9 Meeting at 7:30 at Bill and Judy's, with cookies.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike Spiess reported that the Western Region needs \$4,000 more to meet a matching grant offer for Volcano. Any help is welcome.

The Western Regional is Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 in Sonora.

NEW BUSINESS:

NSS has a new division for rope teaching and safety. Kit and CJ attended several sessions.

TRIP REPORTS:

CJ and Kit (Convention) several river caves, all wet and muddy from recent rains. About 10 long caves.

This weekend: caves some of us visited included S Canyon, Escapade, Intruded, Elderberry, Pool Parlor, Convolution 2, Amaze Attic, Halls of Santana, Ice Falls, Roman Bath, Little Ice, 3-Level Ice, and Freudian shiners 1, 2, and 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.
David Smith, acting secretary

DS

New Maps for Old Caves, Part 1 by Liz Wolff

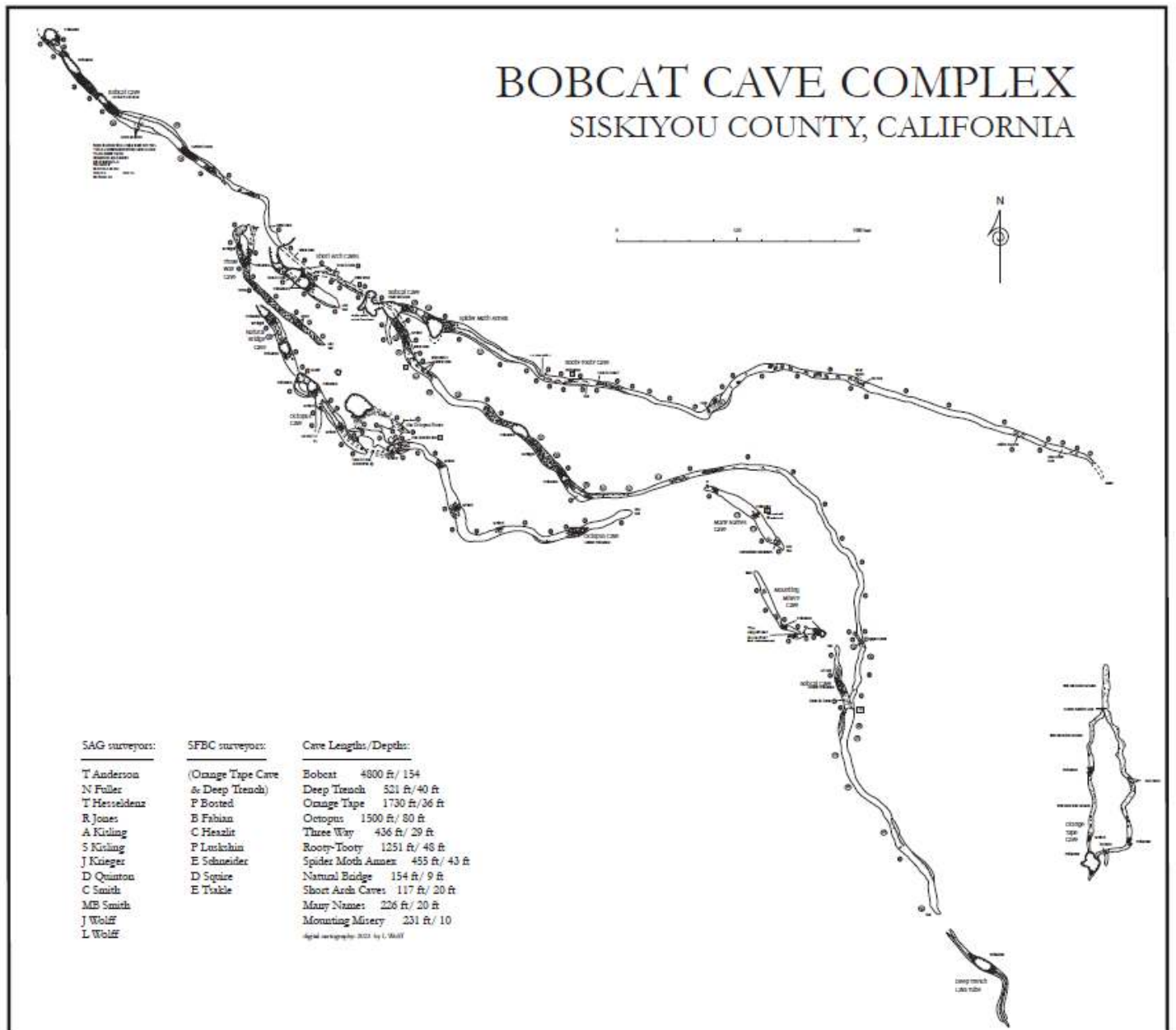
At the prompting of Dave Smith, I am putting some never-before-published (in the RAG) maps in the RAG for you all to enjoy. He requested the story behind the names too. The first set is the Bobcat group of caves.

Bobcat Cave was discovered in 1979 by Jim Wolff and Arley Kisling while working for the Forest Service. The Shasta Area Grotto didn't exist yet; there were six NSS members, plus a few young children forming the Gaping Holes Gang in McCloud CA. This group of caves was the first the proto-grotto surveyed; the map was never published. In 1981 we began the surveys in Bobcat and as they progressed, more caves were found in the immediate vicinity until we had ten caves in all, much to the chagrin of at least one person. Unbeknownst to us, Peter Bosted and a group from the bay area were surveying up from the south, as we worked from the north. We met up one weekend and compared notes, swapped data and maps, then each went on to other caving areas. This map includes two of Peter's caves: Orange Tape, named for a flagging ribbon found at a passage junction deep in the cave; and Deep Trench named for the passage shape, with high ledges lining the sides of the cave.

All of the caves were named for something seen in the area or inside the caves: like Bobcat named for a bobcat we saw near the entrance; or Spider-Moth Annex for the insect life in this annex to Bobcat; Mounting Misery named for the mountain misery bush in the entrance sink; Rooty Tooty named for the curtains of roots festooning the passage; Short Arches for a bridge followed by short parallel passages; Three Way for the three passages that exited the entrance sink; Octopus for the Octopus Room which really only has seven passages; Natural Bridge for the bridge that spans the entrance; and Many Names because one of the survey team was having a bad day, and it has a vertical entrance, and then it didn't go far ... and he didn't have anything good to say about it.

The surveys were not finished until after the Shasta Area Grotto had been commissioned by the National Speleological Society in March 1982, so that the pool of available surveyors broadened considerably. The nine caves of the Bobcat group total 9,170 feet or 1.736 miles in length, with two to three parallel passages for most of the length. The system spans a distance of 3256 feet (0.6 miles) ground distance; and from 5128 feet elevation to 5015 feet. This current map was adjusted to a google-earth image; all caves are now placed in the correct relationships to each other; somewhat different relationships from the previous maps used at the 1990 NSS Convention held in Yreka, CA and at least one Western Regional event.

LW



Map: Bobcat Cave Complex
(For large PDF map see Sag Rag 42(4) b)

Marbles Trip Report - July 2023 By Mark Fritzke

We had a big group, many new folks, but I didn't try to count, and a dozen of us had our gear hauled by Dwayne's mules (thanks to Ethan for organizing). For me, it was a victory just to get back to Marble Valley, after recovering from GBS paralysis last year. All the creeks were flowing, but I recall higher flows in the 1970's, when it was hard to cross Big Rock Fork without getting wet.

Caves visited by the group: Apogee, Nick Jagged, Wahashun, Planetary Dairy, Skunk Hollow, Slipstream, Frozen Falls, Bigfoot; did I miss any?

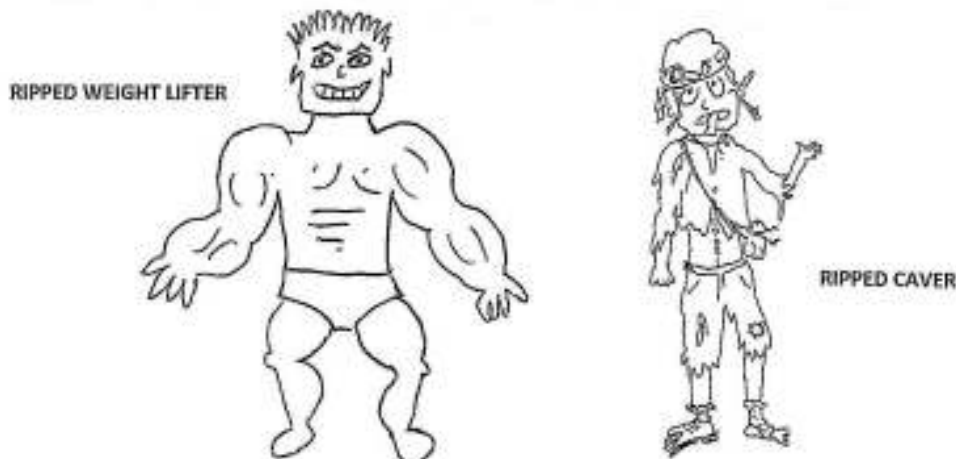
I returned to Sunbeam, where I installed 2 bolts for the entrance pit in 2021. I was dissatisfied with the rope path over a sharp edge, so I set a third bolt as a redirect to avoid the edge. Meanwhile, Niles' team pushed a cave near RP#5, before we all hiked up karst to visit a pit he explored last year. I found a #207 tag on the pit, and we returned Monday to push a dig at the bottom. As I was arriving with a hand sledge, the dig was abandoned when Ethan and Niles called me to follow an ascending tube emerging at a parallel shaft. Seeing light at the top of this shaft suggest the name Skylight Pit. I stabilized a wedged block and Ethan rappelled down the new pit, but ran out of rope. Niles wasn't going to let that stop him, and they managed to hook together all of our webbing to get to a bottom ... with no air. The original dig has good airflow, so a return trip will push the dig. Cam and I exited as Anna, Ethan and Niles finished the survey.

On Tuesday, Niles and I checked leads in Wasp Pit, very high on the karst above Double Arch Cave. Rob Lewis and I found the cave in 2018, where a rift climb down ends at a dead-end pocket with a tiny window. The other side of the window spills into a 200-ft pit series with about 50-ft of horizontal passage at the bottom. Niles dug a low-flat crawl that opened up and kept going, and appears to be trending "up-karst" toward the cliff face! Accordingly, this pit now has more horizontal cave than pit, so I'll rename it Wasp Cave; I hope we can continue out the horizontal stream passage and also push a rift taking the airflow down toward Rainy Cave, directly below.

On Wednesday, Niles, Ethan, Anna and others went out to the Illusion area to survey leads near the new cross-connection with the Knee-grinder. I packed up and hiked out with a 50-lb. Pack, a huge leap forward from last year. I am forever grateful for all the support I received last year; Thank you all!

Huck and others kept a daily log of trips; can somebody post a report on those trips?

MF



Pluto's cleanup By Liz Wolff

[Sun 4-2-2003 7:49 PM] Sam,
here is the report of the trip on Saturday. Birds, bats & owls in Pluto's (teaser) and not that much trash. The other 4 caves contributed some too.

Saturday March 25 found Shasta Area Grotto members Bill Broeckel, Dallas Carlon & daughter Jamie, Logan Hellein, Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Kit & CJ McKinley, Tessa Richard, Dave Smith, Mike Spiess, Jim & Liz Wolff, joined by visitor Daniel Hewitt at Pluto's Cave. The group geared up, grabbing buckets & bags and headed out to the cave to clean up the cave, again. While there we got to know Daniel, at one time a Stanislaus grotto member, and picked up about 20 pounds of trash. Several family groups were visiting the cave and each one of them thanked us for what we were doing. One guy with many tats & a well-pierced girlfriend in tow tried to buy a flashlight from Steve. A great deal of new hot-pink graffiti was noted throughout the cave, plus a little yellow, blue & green.

While in the cave we managed to upset an owl sitting on a nest situated high on one wall, who raucously yelled at us and finally settled down. We could hear tiny peeps also, so maybe her eggs have already hatched? A heavy scattering of feathers attest to her diet: birds. Further in the cave Kit, CJ and Tessa noted one basketball sized clump of hibernating (?) bats plus "several" approximately 6"-8" diameter sized clumps, plus several singles. At that point they turned around to not disturb the bats' rest, as the ceiling lowered toward the back of the cave.

The day was yet young so we went to check the Sand & Barnum gates picking up trash as we went. Not having a ladder we didn't retrieve the single Coors can in the Sand Cave entrance. The gates have not yet been repaired. Back at Barnum the upper gate bar looks to have been welded in place, leaving the lower bar as the sole entry point. Quite a bit of trash was picked up, including a full beer can, unopened.

Next stop was Windy Cave. No trash was retrieved from the cave! But the surface has a heavy scattering of glass and metals from the mill used to smelt the ore from the old copper mine that used the steady wind from the cave to blow the heat up in the forges. Windy is biologically active with many bugs and pseudo-scorpions. Only modern plastics and glass were picked up.

Last stop was the privately-owned Devil's Kitchen. Here at least half of all the trash we picked up was gotten. Boards, plywood scraps, pvc pipe, two feed sacks and a plastic box to carry small stuff in completed the clean ups for the day. All of the trash together nearly filled the bed of Dave's pickup truck. The wind and blowing snow made the day bitterly cold and all felt the effects of it.

LW

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Trío Sonata No. 18 in G Minor: Andante, Allegro by G. F. Handel

Mona Angelini-Cello, Pam Masterson-Cello, M. Farle-Piano

Ave Maria: J.S. Bach / C. Gounod

Donna Gaus, M. Farle

Dark Autumn: Music composed and arranged by Jerry Moore; 2023

Dark Autumn: Poem written by Don LaVoy 2023

Don LaVoy - French Horn/Voice, Marianne Locke-Clarinet

Walk With Me: Composed by Jerry Moore; arrangement 2023

Liz Wolff-Flute, Donna Gaus-Cello, Marianne Locke-Clarinet

Sonata No. 7 in G minor: Allegro moderato by C.P.E. Bach

Julie Titus-Flute, M. Farle-Piano

The Village Maiden: Moderato by Jean Phillippe Rameau

In Manus Tuas, Pater Noster by Jacques Berthier

Oboe-Maggie Barto, Janet Conen-Piano, Donna Gaus-Cello

Oblivion: Milonga lenta by Astor Piazzolla

Julie Titus-Flute, Mona Angelini-Cello, M. Farle-Piano

Largo from Xerxes by G.F. Handel

Liz Wolff-Flute, Pam Masterson-Cello, M. Farle Piano

From the Isles: 1. The Lark in the Clean Air; 2. Scarborough Fair

Arranged by Jerry Moore 2023

Selena Johnson-Clarinet, Marianne Locke-Clarinet

Trío in Eb Major: [K498] Allegretto by W.A. Mozart

Marianne Locke-Clarinet, Mona Angelini-Cello, M. Farle-Piano

From "Chamber Music for a Sunday Afternoon 5-21-23 COS Kenneth Ford Theater, Weed, CA.
Can you find the cavers hidden on this program? Hint: look for Liz Wolff and Selena Johnson.

in Siskiyou County!

GROGU CAVE By Bill Broeckel

Grogu Cave is a lava tube cave located in a remote area in Siskiyou County, California. We first saw this one in the Spring of a California drought year, April 24, 2014. We were casting about for caves well down the flow from Pirate Party Cave. Pirate Party is a larger caliber cave, and we were hoping for more of the same somewhere in the great beyond. That still hasn't happened, but we did find an entrance to a small caliber cave. Looking inside we could see passage extending in two directions. Thus it was located and recorded as a CNS (cave needs survey), and the following note was added. "Looks like a good cave."

Return to survey occurred on August 17, 2022, a warm day in summer. The CNS was the primary objective. We were loath to leave the air conditioned transport, and wanted to avoid, as much as we could, the long, exposed and overheated expanses of broken lava with the sun high in the unclouded sky. So we poked around here and there, pushing old logging tracks, and looking for a closer trailhead.

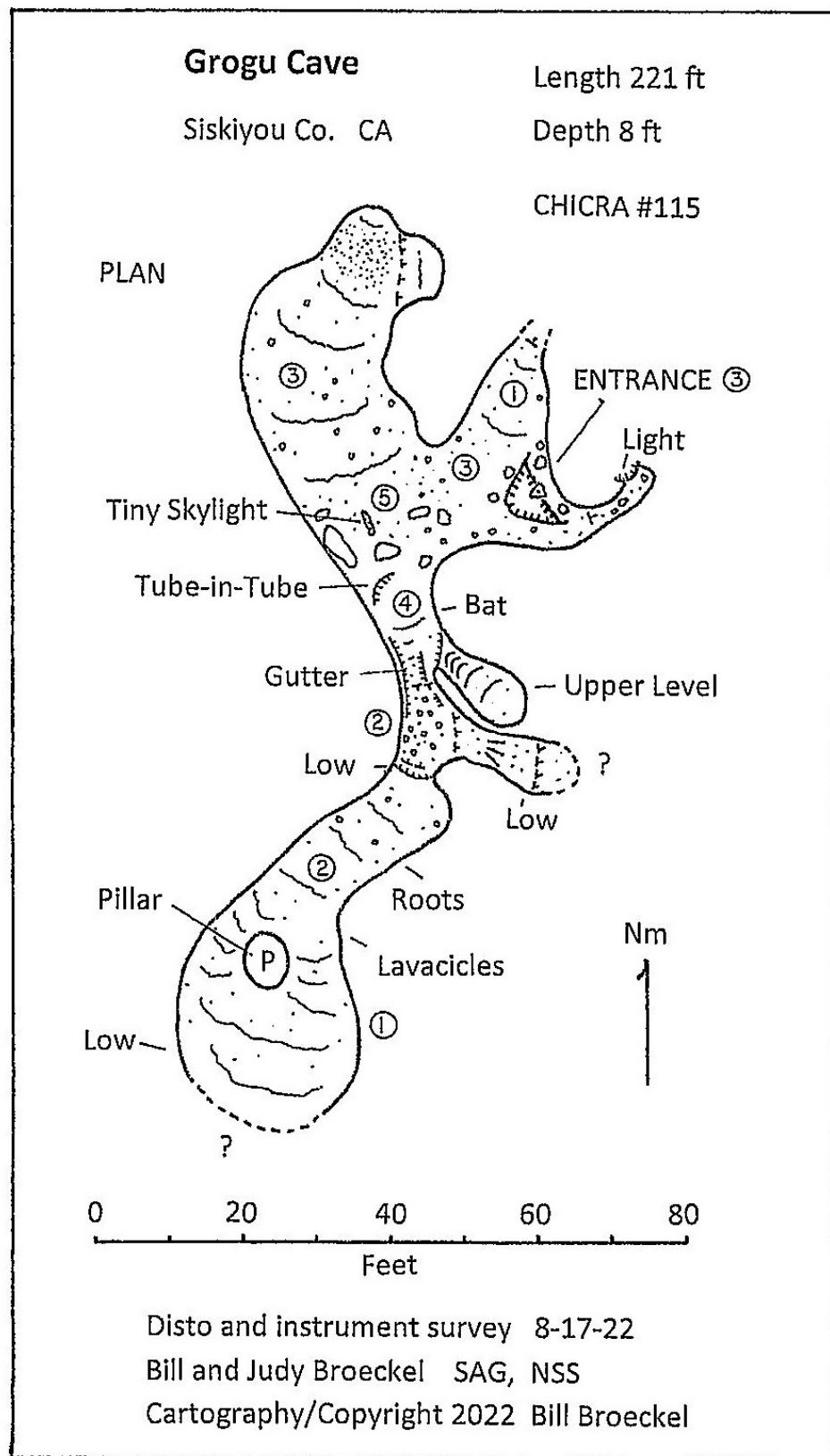
Eventually we settled on a likely parking spot and set out with sun hats, dark glasses, trekking poles, and extra waters. Eight years after the worthy cave listing, we were able to dead reckon to about 100 feet from the entrance. It was on in from there by GPS to save time, sweat, and trouble. Vultures were circling thermals over head as we quickly jumped into the entrance, and gathered ourselves together in the shade and coolness inside. The entrance chamber offered a comfortable five feet of ceiling height.

When all was ready, the time was at hand to explore and map the cave. I like to think that caves enjoy the attention, and are happy to be photographed, to sit for portraits, and to receive names. First we looked into the two broad passages that went north (up-flow). Neither one went very far; so we turned our attention to the narrower down-flow passage.

Grogu himself never did show up. The name was just a whim. But when we started south in the cave, we did disturb a day roosting big eared bat. He flew off, but wasn't interested in the hot afternoon waiting outside any more than we were. He was seen occupying a new position up-flow without much fuss, realizing perhaps that we were already done surveying that part of the cave. Bats are smart like that. We were able to finish the survey without further incident.

Lots of interesting features were packed into the cave's final measured length of 221-ft. These included, a pillar, tube-in-tube, gutter, upper level, side passage, lavacicles, roots, tiny skylight, a couple low leads, and a pushable crawlway that broadened out into the 50-ft of low passage that put the cave past the 200-ft mark. We know it is pushable, because even we could push it, always happy when there is something a bit more challenging that we can manage when caving.

continued



Map: Grogu Cave

Grogu Cave is so far from Pirate Party, it could be a down-flow extension, but could just as easily be a Pirate Party distributary, or even part of its own lobe of cave-forming lava starting from the Pirate Party vent, or from its own stealth vent, it is hard to say. The lovely S-curve shape of the passage can be traced along the surface, as the elevated roof can be easily apprehended. More similar caves might be found in the area around Grogu.

BB

Grogu Cave entrance photo on survey day. 8-17-22



Discovery photo of Grogue Cave entrance. 4-14-15

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STAMP

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