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sky light - Bobcat cave - winter 82 LW 1985

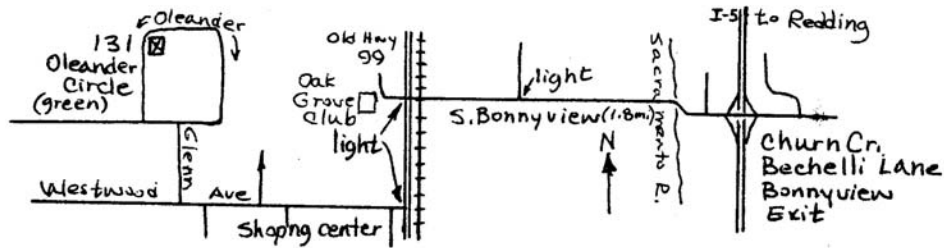
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Shasta Area Grotto meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Meeting places are announced in this newsletter. Subscriptions: \$4/year or 75¢ per copy. Grotto dues are \$4/person or \$6/family.

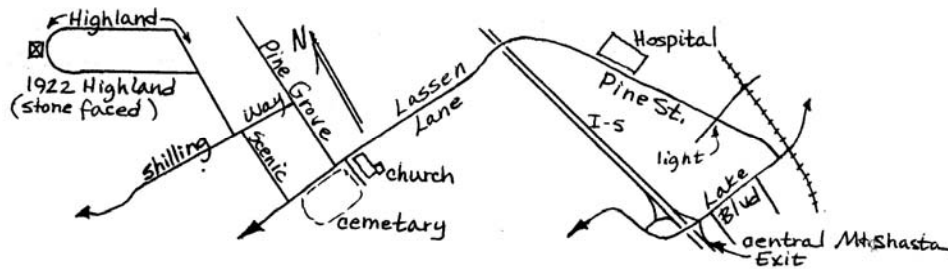
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WHAT'S HAPP'NIN'?

Feb. 14 SAG meeting at Smith's in Redding. Guest speakers Abel Jasso and Don Haskins on USFS-R5 cave management and cave inventory, McCloud district. Cave trip Saturday, destination unknown????



Mar. 14 SAG meeting at Kottingers in Mt. Shasta. Cave trip Saturday.



Apr. 11 SAG meeting at Wolffs in McCloud.

* * * *

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS... (call them up, they want to go caving!)

George and Dorothy Reel of Weed. George is a pilot and likes to cave hunt the easy way. He's involved with the Siskiyou County Search and Rescue organization. 938-4078

Tim Rich of Redding. He's been a cave guide at Shasta Caverns. 221-3804

* * * *

MARBLE MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES* CAP'N SPELEO & BOY BLUNDER
"The Campout" * by Arley Kisling

! Gee Captain Speleo
this tuna fish tastes
like cat food!



yes Boy Blunder,
tuna does have that
same fishy smell!

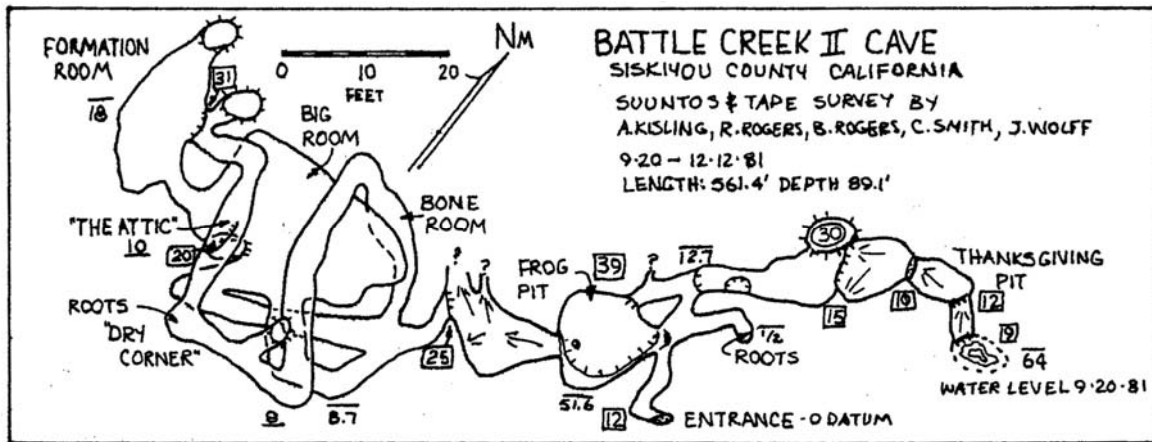
Lakelevel Cave by Matt Wolff

Tim Rich, Claude Smith, Arley Kisling, Jim and Matt Wolff. January 25, 1986 we started out on this marvelous sunny Saturday at a boat launch right near Shasta Dam.

The cave itself was pretty, lots of mud, but still it was pretty. The first drop, which was just inside the entrance, was just a 15' or so drop, which we easily chimneyed. Right near there was (is) a skeleton of an animal. Then we descended down a slope to a 5' drop-down to the room where, when Lake Shasta is full, this room has a lake in it. But it didn't, so we kept on going down to where the "Big Room" is. It is Monstrous. In one part of the room, the ceiling is really a gigantic slab of rock. This giant slab makes this part of the room two levels. We then explored some more, but realizing the time was not enough to survey, we had to leave.

Arley Kisling and I were the first ones to exit. When we got outside, we found to our surprise, two men and some kids. They were just exploring the entrance area with the kids following them. They asked us a lot of questions about the cave, but we were careful how we answered, because we feared they might've tried to get into the cave. They were also talking about shooting bats off the walls. So we hastily left. The other cavers exited the cave soon after.

We then left the area and headed to Redding for dinner.



Map: Wellhella Cave (Battle Creek Cave #2)

Battle Creek Cave #2 [Wellhella Cave – pdf ed.] by Jim Kottinger

At the January grotto meeting the question came up about where to go caving the next day, and since I had not done much in either of the Battle Creek caves, and it had been many years, I pushed for a trip there. It had also been many years since I had done any vertical work – our climbers then were Prusik knots.

I arrived at Wolffs' Lair bright and early Saturday morning (about 9:30) and was met at the door by Jim and Claude Smith and a box full of vertical gear. After an hour or so of fitting me out with butterfly sling and adjusting Liz's climbers to me as best we could, we took off for the cave. In due time we arrived and had a bite of lunch. I'm glad I didn't eat very much – it's amazing how much smaller these cave crawlways have gotten in the last 15 or so years! Then we had at it. The first thing I did is get stuck in the first narrow spot just inside the entrance, so back out, off with the coat, sweat shirt and remove the battery pack from my hip pocket – the joys of being an electric caver – and then go again, dragging my gear behind. In the meantime Jim and Claude are rigging a chunk of Goldline down the 39' Frog Pit, just inside the entrance. This was always full of water when I had seen it before. However, we took the time to go through the upper level to check Thanksgiving Pit,

Continued on next page

which was still somewhat full of water as a rock dropped down the hole rattled a bit and then went splash! We then went back to the Frog Pit and Jim and Claude got me rigged into my loaner rack and after Claude went down, it was my turn. Someplace about here the thought crossed my mind “what are you doing here in this position, dummy,” but not to be outdone I pretended it was just 10’ or so down and bailed out. (This was my first time on a rack and I must admit I enjoyed it.) It is such an improvement over the old body rappel, that it’s hardly in the same ballpark.

Down the shaft and into the beautiful, red, gooey mud. Then it was climb up the other side. Fortunately we could gain quite a bit of altitude in easy stages before we got to the vertical stuff. Claude free-climbed up the wall to the upper level and tied a line around a pretty husky column, and then Jim and I used our vertical gear to go up. There are some pretty formations in this upper area, and they showed me the bones of some kind of good-sized cat. There must have been an entrance at one time somewhere in the area.

I worked on the construction of McCloud Reservoir from time to time (mid 60’s) and remember when they were devastating the entrance rooms of this cave – the road goes right through the middle of the house. I know there were a lot of beautiful formations in these rooms, as I have seen some that a cat-skinner friend of mine removed during lunch breaks before he tore down the mountainside for ballast. I have also heard that the entrance rooms had some pictographs on the walls, but I didn’t see any of this cave until construction was finished.

There is a steep crawlway at the west end of the Big Room that goes up to the “Attic”. This is also full of beautiful formations, but I settled for looking up the shaft at what little I could see as the strain of chimneying up the chute was not setting too well with me.

We finally decided to call it a day and started back out. Everything went fine until I started up out of Frog Pit. This being my first trip using Gibb’s and using Liz’s equipment, which was a bit short for me, it took a while, 6” steps when they would move at all, to get up the rope. However, I had patient companions and in due time we all exited the cave filthy dirty, into the night. All in all I would consider it a great trip and maybe – just maybe – gentle vertical caving may have a new member.

FROM THE EXCHANGES....

SFBC Newsletter (San Francisco Bay Chapter), Jan. 1986

- Bob Richardson reports on connection attempts for two (limestone) caves in Santa Cruz County.
- Mark Conover writes of a recent trip to the “prehistoric painted caves” of Baja. A delightful account of his research and field attempts to see these natural galleries of prehistoric rock art.
- Brief account of a fatal cave accident of SFBC member, Eric Tsakle.

Underground Express (Willamette Valley Grotto), Fall ‘85

- Randy Boyd writes about cave weather, a primer of cave meteorology for the uninitiated. Very informative, unfortunately without graphs, tables, and drawings.
- A KMCTF surveying/note taking guide by Steve Knutson, to standardize data.

Devil’s Advocate (Diablo Grotto), Jan. 1986

- Doug Bradford offers a short Lost Soldiers Cave trip report. You must reserve space for a trip to this commercialized cave.
- Diablo Grotto is having a tee shirt design contest.

Continued on page 6

MEMBERSHIP LIST

FRITZKE, Mark	16064	5/86	POB 4836, Arcata, CA 95521	
HENDERSON, Al Phyllis	25329 25330	8/88	14500 Kenney Ave., Red Bluff, CA 96080	916-527-7513
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JONES, Roger	22350	4/86	POB 26, Redcrest, CA 95569	707-422-4185
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LA FORGE, Dick	16560	5/86	450 Redmond Rd., Eureka, CA 95501	707-443-2626
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QUINTON, Don	18354	8/86	800-a E. Virginia Way, Barstow, CA	619-256-5727
REEL, George Dorothy	* *	1/87	7908 Oak Ridge, Weed, CA 96094	916-938-4078
RICH, Tim	*	1/87	3210 Forest Hills Rd., Redding, CA 96002	916-221-3804
SMITH, Claude Mary Belle	11980 13894	2/86	131 Oleander Circle, Redding, CA 96001	916-246-3942
SMITH, Niels	23836	2/86	Star Rte. 3, Standish, CA 96128	916-254-6764
STOUTE, Mark	20600	5/86	933 "E" St., Eureka, CA 95501	
WOLFF, Jim Liz	7572 11701	2/86	POB 865, McCloud, CA 96057	916-964-3123

Grotto dues are due month/year shown: * indicates noncurrent NSS member

GROTTO OFFICERS 1986

CHAIRMAN	JIM WOLFF
VICE**CHAIRMAN	RAY MILLER
TREASURER	CLAUDE SMITH
SECRETARY	MARY BELLE SMITH

From the Exchanges, continued

The Explorer (Southern Cal Grotto), Jan. 1986

- “Hawaiian Lavatubin’”, by Bob Richards, tells of visiting a lava cave that has 7 lavafalls, 3 of which are roped drops, and about 3 miles of cave. They were getting about 300’ of vertical relief for every mile traversed. The cave is in the same flow as the world’s longest and deepest lava cave, good potential for another record breaking cave.
- Update on the 9th International Congress of Speleology by Dave Bunnell. Some co\$t\$ are outlined, and pre- and post-congress field trips. Barcelona Spain, August 1-8, 1986.
- Russ Harter writes of a grotto trip to Little Petroglyph Canyon, near China Lake Naval Weapons Center. He deals with the possible lifestyles of the people that created these mysterious symbols and figures in stone.
- NSS 4490 writes on the “commercialization” of Lost Soldiers Cave by an individual, under the sponsorship of the Sequoia Natural History Association. “He” has trips through Crystal Sequoia Cave as well.
- Pre and post-convention cave trips at the 1986 NSS Convention, in Tularosa, NM, are dealt with by Dave McClurg.

Short Rounds (Golden Gate Grotto), Dec. 1985

- Round-of-the-month award went to Ken Laidlaw, founder of the “original” GGG.
- More in the dictionary of cave/caver/caving terms we’d love to forget, and some we’d like to see more of.
- Aiming Up column asks for constructive criticism.
- And the usual collection of cartoons, editorials, cave articles, etc.! (You have to read one to believe it).

SHASTA AREA GROTTTO / NSS
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