



THE SAG RAG

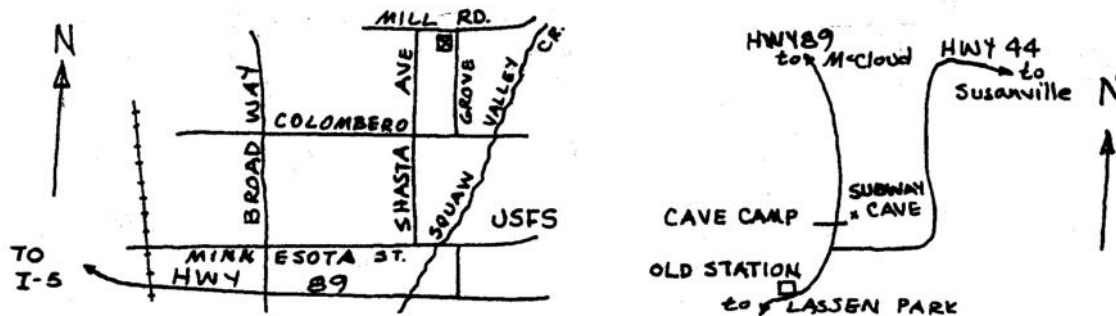
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The SAG RAG is published bi-monthly by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Editors: Jim and Liz Wolff, PO Box 865, McCloud, Ca. 96057. Printing: Ray Miller. Grotto meetings are held the second Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Meeting places are announced in the newsletter. Dues are due January 1, prorated by quarter, \$6. Subscriptions are \$6/year.

CAVER'S CALENDAR

May 12 – SAG Meeting, Jim & Liz Wolff's, 6 Mill Rd., McCloud CA (916) 964-3123. Trough Cr. Karst cave hunting, or lavatubing, for Saturday trips. Trough Cr. Karst is an unchecked area on the Pacific Crest Trail, accessible by jeep trail and a short hike.

June 9 – SAG Meeting, Cave Campground Hat Creek Valley, campout near Subway Cave. Since the fires there have been caves discovered north of Subway. Come explore in nearly virgin cave! Good fishing for non-cavers.



Bats Again! by Liz Wolff

February 19 several SFBC cavers were in the area checking on some convention related things (like restaurants) and two wanted to go caving in lava tubes, their first ever. So I took Gary Davey and Kevin (?) to Barnum Cave to count bats. We found 30 *Plecotus* and one short-eared bat. In Dance Hall we found 2 short-eared and in Teeter Rack we found one live *Plecotus*, one short-eared bat, and one *Plecotus* that had been shot.

Then in the March 1, 1989 Mt. Shasta Herald this head, line screamed:

“They Were Going Bats At Weed Store Saturday”

The article told of a “stunt” some local youths had pulled, that “created havoc” in the market. The store manager said that 3 or 4 boys “came in the store about 5 pm holding a sheet. The boys then let open the sheet and 20 – 30 bats flew out.” Most of the bats were killed by store personnel with brooms. The few that managed to hide in a back room were exterminated by a pest control crew.

Tim Burton, a wildlife biologist with state Department of Fish and Game said that “these were probably brown evening bats, which are prevalent in this area.” He theorized that the bats were easy to catch because they were hibernating. He also said that “even though bats are disgustingly ugly, the youths’ stunt was a cruel misuse of the animals because they still serve an important role in the natural world.”

As a follow-up of the newspaper article, and knowing where “20 – 30” bats were in easy reach, SAG members went out to Barnum Cave on March 11, to find there were NO bats.

Honored Cave Explorer Overcame Fear of Heights (Assoc. Press 2/6/89)

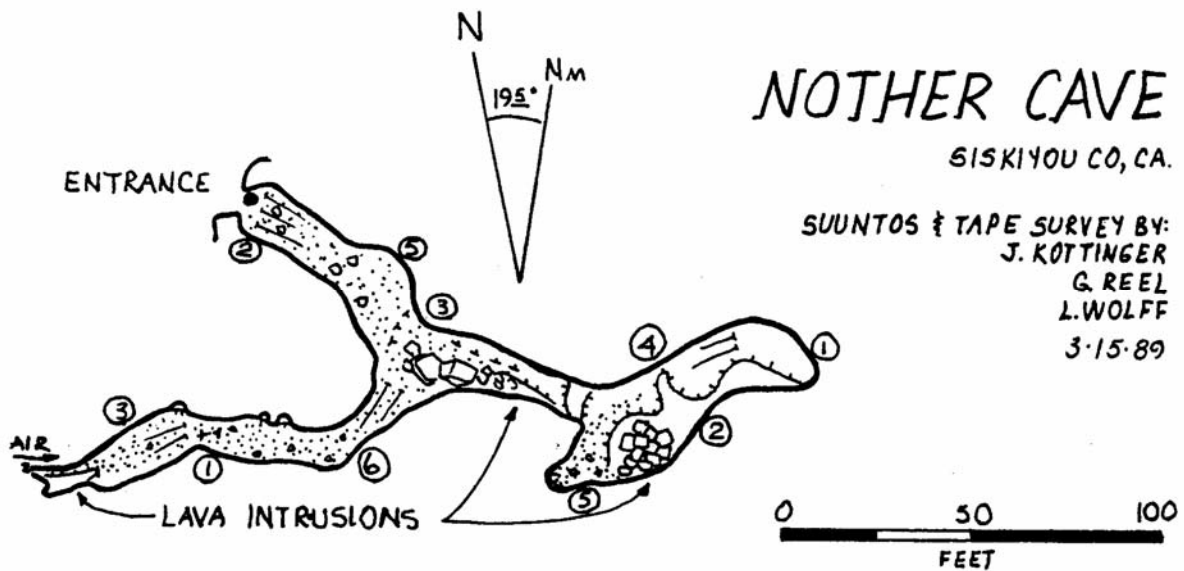
James Smith who recently received the 1988 Lew Bicking Award at the ‘88 NSS Convention. He was quoted as saying that “I’ve always been afraid of heights. When you’re exploring a cave, you have to expose yourself to heights. That took a lot of repetition and coaxing by more experienced people.” Smith is credited with tripling the number of known caves in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia that are more than 400 feet deep. He also is credited with discovering the first cave in the Western Hemisphere to be more than a kilometer (0.62 miles) deep, La Nita Cave, in the Huatla Plateau.

Nother Cave found in the Shasta Valley / Pluto's Cave caving area – by Liz Wolff

Lava flows follow the terrain and it is easy to predict that a cave will be in a certain area. Of course it isn't always easy to find the entrance to it! Chasing leads on Saturday March 11 Jim Kottinger, Clarence Horner, George & Dorothy Reel, and yours truly were out to find the Devils Kitchen. It's described in Caves of California, as being a short distance east of Cellar Cave. Cellar was easy to figure out, it had to be Windy Cave with the cement slab by the entrance, but Devil's Kitchen could be a new one to us. Further east on a magnetic bearing is a deep-sheer sided sink hole that has very little cave in either end of it. After beating the brush for half a day, we decided that the sink had to be the Devil's Kitchen. Now it's located beside a major road that didn't exist in Halliday's day.

After lunch and poking around the old copper mine near Windy Cave, we headed out to Teeter Rock to see if we could find a down flow extension to the cave. Teeter Rock ends in sand fill so there should be more cave beyond. Surface walking in the past had turned up one small blowing hole probably not worth digging, so we turned our attention further west. Pointing out the direction I thought we should go, we spread out into a skirmish line and set out. We got about 200' and George was whooping he'd found it. "It" was a small entrance, about a foot tall and two feet wide. Now the only way to be sure to find a cave when you go hunting is to not carry a light. George cheated, he had a penlight, but found one anyway. About 60' in the cave splits and the downslope branch is dirt and guano floored. It stinks too, but the holes in the walls were interesting, looked almost water worn. At floor level a small crawl led into a room with a lava intrusion blocking the passage except for a tiny air hole blowing a gale.

The other branch went over a low sill into a wide room with an intrusion of lava and a crawl into a terminal room. We found a piece of litter in this room, and two corroded batteries at the entrance. So much for virgin cave.



Map: Nother Cave

Here's a thought worth thinking about, and repeating...

"I spread my dreams under your feet..."

Tread softly when 'ere you go for
you tread upon my dreams..."

– thanks to Bruce Rogers for that quotable quote

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!! Why don't you give one or both of these guys a call sometime, and invite them on a cave trip or two – they need the trips to become "regular-members", and besides, they're nice folks!
– Mike Carnahan, 2815 Nicole Ct., Anderson, CA. 96007 ph# (916) 243-3874
– John Stein, 3730 East Keswick Dam Rd., Redding, CA. 96003 ph# (916) 365-5404

Memorial Day Weekend is the Western Regional Educational Seminar at the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp. It is located near Yosemite N.P. Accommodations are in tent cabins with cots, or you can camp in any of the local campgrounds. Meals are provided for those staying in the tent cabins. It looks like an excellent line up of speakers and topics will be presented. It's not too late to register and get in on this interesting, educational weekend. Call Claude Smith at (916) 246-3942 for registration materials if you aren't a Western Region member. Registration packets were sent to all Western Region members. Region membership costs \$2 for NSS members and \$4 for non-NSS members, and you get the California Caver 4 times a year. The least expensive magazine subscription around! To join the Western Region at these nominal fees, send your money, name, and address to:

Carol Vesely, 709 Primrose Ave., Apt A, Monrovia CA 91016.

It's A Strange World We Live In – by Ray Miller

There are 365 days a year. You sleep 8 hours a day or 122 days a year; leaving 243 days for work. There are 52 weekends a year, or 104 days; leaving 137 days for work. 25 holidays per year leave 112 days for work. Even cavers have to eat; at 1 hour per meal, or 3 meals a day, or 46 days a year, there are 66 days to work. Travel averages 1/2 hour each way, totaling 15 days, leaving 51 days per year to work. Everybody should have 1/2 hour a day to sit and think. That adds up to 7 1/2 days, leaving 45 1/2 days per year to work. Most people get 24 days sick leave per year, leaving 21 1/2 days to work per year. Annual vacation is 2 weeks or 14 days, leaving a mere 7 1/2 days a year to work.

WHY IS IT THAT EVERY TIME YOU TRY TO GET A MID-WEEK CAVING TRIP GOING,
EVERYONE IS WORKING? ? ?

The SAG RAG
c/o Jim and Liz Wolff
P.O. Box 865
McCloud, CA 96057

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

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