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Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS)  
Commission on Volcanic Caves

*e*-NEWSLETTER

No.70 – August 2017

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<http://www.uis-speleo.org/>



<http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/>

The Commission on Volcanic Caves Newsletter has been published regularly since December 22, 1993. The Newsletter is available free of charge to all members of the commission, and to others who are interested in Volcanic caves.



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### MISSION STATEMENT

The UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves encourages exploration and scientific investigation of volcanic caves, and hosts the International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology about every two years



### COVER PHOTO

Lava Beds National Monument  
California.

Photo: David Bunnell

## Editorial

Well here's my second attempt at the Newsletter. I received no feedback from the first one so I guess you are all happy with the format and the contents! I will however still be delighted to accept any constructive criticism or suggestions to improve it. I will be even happier to receive articles and photos to include in future issues. Just send me an email with any news relating to volcanic caves, let's hear what the commission members have been up to.

I have an apology to make to several people with regards to the volcanic caver's facebook group. The group currently has some 37 members, but I have recently (yesterday!) become aware of several requests passed to me via "messenger" which I had not seen. Some of these go back up to a year. I will try to get these actioned as soon as I can. Again if you wish to be a part of this group then send me an email or message on facebook, if you are not already "friends" with me, then my profile shows me stood under a ship and encased in scaffold in a cave.

The googlegroup email distribution list seems to be working well, I have added a few more people to it and updated a few details. Please let me know if your details have changed or you wish to join. Sometime in 2018 I will review the addresses that are bouncing and remove them from the group.

Finally, though I have not been able to get down a volcanic cave since the last newsletter in August, I did represent the vulcanospeleology community at a major event in London in December. The British Caving Association held an event at the Royal Geographic Society showcasing the UK contribution to cave exploration, and I was asked to present on the subject of lava tube caves.

Ed Waters, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018

## **Message from the Chairman**

Hello everyone and best wishes for the New Year.

Chances are that when you read this I will be caving on the Nullarbor Plain in the remote Southeastern corner of Western Australia. The Nullarbor is the largest continuous outcrop of cavernous limestone in Australia. There are no lava caves out there and in fact, the nearest lava caves are in the state of Victoria, some 1800km (about 1100 miles, if that makes more sense to you) to the East. However, while I am out there I will be thinking about lava caves. I have a feeling that 2018 will be a big year for the Commission on Volcanic Caves.

In July, the 18<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology will be held at Lava Beds National Monument in northeastern California. Most of the work to organise this event has so far been on the shoulders of Mary Rose, who has done a great job in putting together the program outline, finding a suitable venue for presentations, identifying a range of accommodation options, arranging field trips, providing advice on transport options, figuring out how to feed a bunch of hungry vulcanospeleologists in a remote area and setting up a Website. More work needs to be done and I am sure the Mary would appreciate help with the many tasks that will crop up in coming months and during the Symposium itself. Please get in touch with Mary to offer your assistance.

The on-line registration site went live in November 2017 and I understand that so far, the rate of registrations - and also offers of presentations - has been a little slow. I sincerely hope this situation will soon change there cannot be much of a Symposium if there are hardly any participants and only few presentations on offer.

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I urge you to register as soon as possible. Not only will this help Mary work out logistics and finalise program details but it will also help you to secure your preferred style of accommodation.

This issue of the Newsletter has detailed information on the arrangements that have so far been put in place for the Symposium.

In March I will be attending, and have requested the opportunity to speak at, a Public Hearing into a land use planning issue that has the potential to adversely impact on the Harmans Valley lava flow at Byaduk in Victoria (Australia). Byaduk is one the best known lava cave areas in Australia and was visited by Commission members during a field trip of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology in 2010.



14th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, West Victorian Field-trip, August 2010

**Back:** Árni Stefánsson (is), Steve Holden (au), Ken Ingham (us), Gerhard Noss (au), Jan-Paul Van Der Pas (nl), Greg Middleton (au), Harry Marinakis (us), Stephan Kempe (de), Martin Mills (uk), Kirsty Mills (uk), John Brush (au), Nick White (au).

**Front:** Diana Northup (us), Janeen Samuel (au), Susan White (au), Gunnhildur Stefánsdóttir (is), Marjorie Coggan (au), Ken Grimes (au).

Standing on Turtle Cave (3H-90), a "lava blister" at Byaduk.

KG100584jat K.G. Grimes, 8-2010

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The Byaduk Caves are not at risk as they lie within the boundaries of the Mt Napier State Park. However, further down the Harmans Valley lava flow, a rock crushing operation has damaged a section of the flow and there are concerns that ongoing operations could destroy the landscape, aesthetic and educational values of one of the best preserved and most dramatic lava flows in Australia.



Harman's Valley with the Extinct Mt. Napier Volcano in the Background  
Photo: John Brush

In October, several Commission members became aware of the issue and Vice President Gregory Middleton made a submission on behalf of the Commission urging the local government authorities to amend its Shire Planning Scheme to ensure permanent protection of the lava flow and its significant landscape features. The issue was subsequently referred to the Victorian State Government which has decided to conduct the Public Hearing in March. I hope I can report a good outcome on this issue at a later date.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at Lava Beds National Monument in July.

John Brush, Chair, IUS Commission on Volcanic Caves

## The 18th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology is Coming!



Valentine's Tube, Lava Beds National Monument  
Photo: David Bunnell

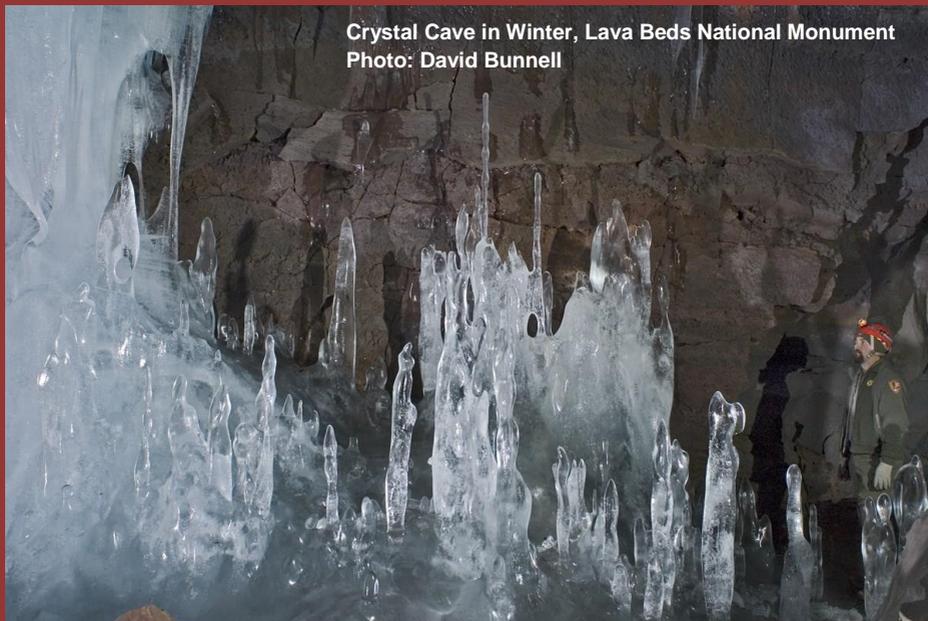
*The following information has been extracted (and slightly modified) from the Website set up for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (<http://18ivslavabeds.com/>). The Symposium is being organised by Mary Rose, whom many of you would have met at the 17<sup>th</sup> Symposium in Hawaii in February 2016.*

Lava Beds National Monument is truly a caving amusement park, but it has so much more to offer: scenery, wildlife, geology, and history, to name a few.

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This is a great opportunity to explore some of the most extensive lava tubes in the western region of the United States. Lava Beds National Monument is a land of turmoil, both geological and historical. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions on the Medicine Lake shield volcano have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. More than 700 caves, Native American rock art sites, historic battlefields and camp-sites, and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

Most caves in the monument area are wild, however many have been developed to facilitate visitor access. Many of the developed caves contain trails through the cave and stairways or ladders into the cave. Most of the developed caves are located along Cave Loop, a 2-mile (3km) road near the Lava Beds Visitor Centre. Just a short walk from the visitor centre, Mushpot Cave contains exhibits and is the only lighted cave at Lava Beds. Developed caves are divided into three groups based on their varying levels of difficulty in the hardest section of the cave: least, moderate, and most challenging. During the symposium, there will be opportunities to examine a representative selection of both wild and developed caves.



Crystal Cave in Winter, Lava Beds National Monument  
Photo: David Bunnell

## **Location**

The Lava Beds National Monument is in the remote northeastern corner of California. The closest towns are Tulelake, California, 23 miles (38km) from the Monument Visitors Centre and Merrill in Oregon, 26 miles (42km) distant. The Symposium itself will be held at Winema Lodge about 17 miles (27km) from the Visitor Centre in the direction of Tulelake and Merrill. Accommodation is available at Winema Lodge and at Merrill.

## **Getting There**

As public transport to the area is at best limited, Mary Rose highly recommends that you drive.

Drive times from San Francisco, California or Portland, Oregon will be between 6-7 hours.

The closest small airports are Medford, Bend and Klamath Falls, Oregon with drive times of between 1 and 4 hours. The nearest major airport is Reno, Nevada, with a drive time of about 4-hours.

The Coast Starlight Amtrak train system will land you in Klamath Falls, Oregon or Weed, California but you will still need to rent a car and expect drive times between 1-2 ½ hours to the National Monument.

## **Lodging**

Essentially there are two available options: Winema Lodge and Wild Goose Lodge Motel. Both offer excellent accommodations at reasonable prices and are within easy reach of the Lava Beds National Monument.

Winema Lodge will be the principal accommodation site. It will also be the venue for the symposium sessions and most meals. The lodge is a rustic hunting lodge, not fancy but extremely comfortable and is located about 6 miles (9 km) from the entrance to the National Monument. The lodge offers a variety of room types: dormitory style rooms (with single beds and shared bath), motel rooms (that will sleep 3 and have private bathrooms) and a mobile home (with 4 separate rooms, kitchen and living room). In total Winema Lodge can accommodate about 65-75 participants. Verna and Al are the hosts and they do a marvellous job of making all welcome and comfortable.

The whole of Winema Lodge has been pre-reserved exclusively for this event and can be booked directly through the Symposium website (<http://18ivslavabeds.com/lodging/>).

Cabins have also been reserved at the Wild Goose Lodge Motel in Merrill some 9 miles (14km) distant from Winema Lodge. Each of the 14 cabins sleeps two people (in double or two single beds) and comes with a private bathroom with shower, TV, microwave, small refrigerator and a coffeemaker. More information on the configuration of each cabin can be found on the Symposium website. The cabins must be booked directly with the Lodge (105 East Court Dr, Merrill, OR 97633, Phone +1 541-798-5826; [www.wildgoosemotel.com](http://www.wildgoosemotel.com)). When making a booking, remember to let the Lodge know that you are a Symposium participant.

R/V sites are available at both Winema Lodge and Wild Goose Lodge. Please let Mary Rose know if you are interested.

Camping is available at Lava Beds Park on a first come/first served basis. Once again, please let Mary Rose know if you are interested.

## **Meals**

A meal plan covering most meals will be available at Winema Lodge for \$US200/person. The meal plan includes the “Welcome Dinner”, the “Farewell Dinner”, the BBQ Star Party Dinner, 6 breakfasts and 5 lunches.

Finding alternative restaurants will be difficult as they not conveniently located nearby.

Contact Mary Rose if you have any dietary issues.



## **Registration**

Registration is \$US200 and includes:

- Morning lecture presentations at the Winema Lodge with complimentary coffee and tea
- Transportation to afternoon caving locations
- 18th IVS booklet
- Maps and guides to various caves and places of interest
- Logo'd water bottle

## White-nose syndrome

White-nose syndrome is a disease that is killing hibernating bats in eastern North America. WNS was first documented at four sites in eastern New York 2007. After that, photographs taken in February 2006 were found, showing affected bats at another site. Named for the white fungus on the muzzles and wings of affected bats, WNS has rapidly spread to many sites throughout the eastern United States and into Canada. Researchers associate WNS with the newly identified fungus, *Pseudogymnoascusdestructans*, which thrives in cold and humid conditions characteristic of caves and mines used by bats. Bats affected with WNS do not always have obvious fungal growth, but they may behave strangely within and outside of their hibernacula (caves and mines where bats hibernate during the winter).

Do not bring cave gear to Lava Beds National Monument that has been used in a place where WNS has been identified, even if that gear has been decontaminated.

Decontaminate your gear if it has been used in areas where WNS has not been identified.

Gear will not need to be decontaminated between cave visits here at the Medicine Lake Volcano, even if the caves you visit are outside the park.

Please go to [whitenosesyndrome.org](http://whitenosesyndrome.org) for the latest up to date recommendations for gear decontamination.



## Proposed Program

**Sat July 21st**

Afternoon registration, "Welcome Party"

**Sun July 22nd**

Morning lectures, lunch, early afternoon caving adventures

**Mon July 23rd**

Morning lectures, lunch, early afternoon caving adventures

**Tues July 24th**

Morning lectures, lunch, early afternoon caving adventures

**Wed July 25th**

Morning lectures, lunch, early afternoon caving adventures, BBQ and Star Party

**Thurs July 26th**

Morning lectures, lunch, "Farewell Party"

Sentinel Cave, Lava Beds National Monument

Photo: David Bunnell

## Optional Pre and Post Trips

### Pre-Symposium trips

#### 1) CRATER LAKE DAY TRIP Sat July 21st 8:30am – 5pm.

Our trip to Crater Lake will be guided by Todd Kepple, (Manager of the Klamath County Museum, an Oregon Master Naturalist and Interpretive guide), will include a circle of the Upper Klamath Lake, which sits on the dividing line between the Basin and Range provinces and the Cascade Mtn Range. We'll examine the combined effects of volcanic and faulting activity, and how they have affected the natural environment of the region, as well as human activity in the Klamath Basin. We'll get a beautiful view of the cinder cones, stratovolcanoes, and the largest shield volcano in the Cascade Range. We'll even see slickenslides! The tour route crossed a portion of the old Klamath Indian Reservation. Discussion will include the ongoing adjudication of the Klamath Tribes' treaty rights, and how contentious water issues have affected one of the most production cattle grazing regions in the United States. We will have a Park Ranger talk along with a scenic hike atop the lake.

Sack lunch included. \$75.00, Limit 40. Pick up at 8:30 am and return to Winema Lodge by 6pm in time for the Welcome Dinner. Book through the registration site.

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### 2) 3 DAY MEDICINE LAKE CAVING ADVENTURE Thurs July 19 – Sat July 21.

Lodging in an all-American log cabin and nestled up against the backdrop of 14,000' majestic peak of Mt. Shasta, we are going to take 3 full days exploring the magnificent giant lava flow on the south side of Lava Beds Monument.

This trip will include a moderate amount of hiking each day across rocky lava flows in order to access various Ice Caves and several 85' vertical pit drops. This is not for the light hearted as it will require experienced cavers with a good degree of adventure spirit.

The last day, all cars will caravan over the Medicine Lake summit passing by Glass Mountain, Mammoth Crater and other spectacular views of Mt Shasta ending on Sunday at the Winema Lodge just in time for the welcome dinner.

Meet at cabin in McCloud, CA 9am and finish at Winema Lodge Tulelake by 6pm. \$300 per person. For further information, please contact Mark Linn at [wmlinco@sonic.net](mailto:wmlinco@sonic.net). Book through registration site.



Sentinel Cave, Lava Beds National Monument  
Photo: David Bunnell

## **UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves Newsletter No.71**

### **3) 3 DAY RAFTING RIVER TRIP Thurs July 19 – Sat July 21**

This Rogue River rafting trip is one of the most famous whitewater river adventures in the American West, and for good reason. Flowing from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, our particular Oregon rafting trip takes place on the most scenic section of the river flowing through the heart of the Rogue River Wilderness. Fun, intermediate rapids, warm water and a green-forested canyon makes rafting the Rogue River the perfect natural playground for the best whitewater rafting experience. To top it off, each night you stay at a remote riverside lodge where you enjoy your own room with private bathroom.

During the day you raft through the Rogue River's splashy rapids and, in the quiet pools between, watch for deer, black bear, river otters and a variety of birds that make this canyon their home. Like all the best whitewater rafting trips in the world, there's plenty of variety along the way including walks to historic homesteads and superb hiking trails. Few rivers offer such a magical blend of fun suitable for all ages.

Exact price to be determined.\$400 deposit. Total cost approx \$950 per person. Meet in Merlin, OR. For further information, please contact Ann Bosted at [bosted@earthlink.net](mailto:bosted@earthlink.net). Book through registration site.

### **4) POINT REYES SEA CAVES AND HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE TOUR Tue July 17.**

Point Reyes National Seashore, a triangle of land north of San Francisco, offers visitors pristine beaches, dramatic waves, rocky headlands, tide pools, marshes, open pastures and forested ridges.

All day beach and lighthouse hike includes in-park van transportation (pick up and return from Olema Camp Ground) and picnic lunch. \$85 per person.(8 person max).Offered by Point Reyes Tours ([www.pointreyestours.com](http://www.pointreyestours.com)). . Please book directly with them.

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### **5) YOSEMITE TOUR Thurs July 19**

Yosemite National Park is in California's Sierra Nevada mountains. It's famed for its giant, ancient sequoia trees, and for Tunnel View, the iconic vista of towering Bridal Veil Fall and the granite cliffs of El Capitan and Half Dome. All day Custom Tour of Yosemite, including van transport (pick up and return from your motel/campground in Mariposa or El Portal, CA) and picnic lunch. \$85 per person (10 max). Offered by Yosemite Close up Tours ([www.yosemitecloseup.com](http://www.yosemitecloseup.com)). Please book directly with them.

**Post-Symposium trips to be advised later.**

#### **Further Information**

For further information, please contact the symposium organiser:

Email: [marylizrose00@gmail.com](mailto:marylizrose00@gmail.com)

Phone: 1.415.652.8009

## **Lava Caves in Ethiopia?**

A group of UK cavers has been carrying out some cave exploration activity in Ethiopian limestones, but has only just realised that there may be significant caves formed in the lavas in the country. At present they have no information on previous exploration of volcanic caves in the country. If anyone has any useful information, please let the editor know!