



Paula and Mike with granddaughter Sierra.

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Message from the Curator

Now that we've successfully participated in another "Felton Remembers" parade, I want to thank the members who came to help with the event. Most of them are pictured below with yours truly (missing is Mellow Russell.) Thanks, gang, for your help.



Tom Yamarone, Mark Stenberg, Ralph Jack, his son Colton and Mike R.

We've been working hard getting ready for our first Bigfoot Discovery Day. In an effort to create space for our evening event at my home, we decided to construct a large storage shed. My home is built up on concrete piers in



Melissa Stone and Nate Blanchard tossed candy.

order to avoid flooding when the river rises. The ground level consists of a small studio, a bathroom and an open carport. We want to turn this entire area into an extension of the museum, for larger gatherings and winter meetings, and use it as a studio in which we'll produce bigfoot sculptures and other such things to sell in the museum. At present the studio is being used as storage for extra museum fixtures, two lifesize bigfoot effigies like the ones in the diorama and a couple of hundred boxes full of books. The new shed will allow us to empty the studio and give us a space for the office, so we'll be able to turn the small outbuilding behind the museum (the current office) into a dedicated reference library and bookstore. I want to thank members Mike Barrow and Dave D'Arpino for the tremendous amount of hard work they've put into this project over the last few weeks! This will free up a bunch of square footage for the museum.

Other preparations for Bigfoot Discovery Day are moving along well. We've sent press releases to all the Bay Area newspapers, and so far we've heard back from the Santa Cruz Sentinel; they will be doing a story with pictures during the week before the event. I also sent emails to anthropologists at UCSC, San Jose SU and Cabrillo College notifying them of the event. An anthro professor from Cabrillo called and reserved two tickets... so far that's the extent of the response from the local academic community. As I write this we have about half of the available tickets reserved (62), so I think there's a chance we might have a sellout. It will, of course, depend on how many people choose to take their chances on buying a ticket at the door. A bunch of members from out of the area are coming, so our Friday evening dinner with Dr. Meldrum should prove to be a fun time. Daniel Perez, long-time bigfooter and editor of the Bigfoot Times, is among those who have reserved tickets.

We ordered extra copies of *Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science* so Jeff will be able to sell autographed copies at the event, and he

shipped out two boxes of plaster footprint casts, which will also be for sale. There will also be a raffle at the event for bigfoot related prizes such as books, T-shirts and casts.



Now for an update on bigfoot happenings out in the world. Tom Biscardi is making waves again via his radio blog and website. He has posted some .gif files that were enhanced by M.K. Davis from a "stationary trail trip video camera...taken on private property in the evening." The "enhanced" version they have posted online is highly pixelated and very inconclusive, but it does seem to show something that emerges from the bush on two legs, with very long arms and an ape-like demeanor. Apparently there is video of some smaller creatures up in a tree as well. They've consulted with cryptozoologist Scott Marlowe of the Pangea Institute in Florida, and on the radio broadcast they were comparing the recent video with sketches and eyewitness accounts of a swamp ape encounter from 2004. Thus far they have not mentioned any details about who shot the video, where or when it was shot, so it really is nothing more than a moving blobsquatch, but I thought I'd call attention to it anyway as a service to our membership. As questionable as Biscardi's tactics are at times, he is out there in front of the public a lot, so he does attract reports, artifacts and video from the public at large. Last week the *Metro Silicon Valley* did a cover story on Biscardi, and he claimed on his radio show that he was contacted by *Newsweek*. So he does get much attention from the media, and has become a force to reckon with in the bigfoot community, especially since people like Ray Crowe and M.K. Davis have started working with him. www.metro-santacruz.com/metro/06.13.07/bigfoot-0724.html

Recent acquisitions for the library:

Little People and a Lost World by Linda Goldenberg; *Wildman of the Woods* by Ed Bush & Terry Gaston

-- Michael Rugg

Finally Setting Foot in a Forest - Notes from the Field

by Tom Yamarone with a contribution by Bart Cutino

The last month has been a busy one preparing for the inaugural Bigfoot Discovery Day. We are more than excited to have Jeff Meldrum visiting the museum and featured at our lecture event in Santa Cruz on June 30th. Besides having one of the biggest names in town, the weekend will be “made” when all of the bigfooters we know show up and you get to rub elbows and kick-back with them. In the meantime, I was lucky to get out and about...here are the notes from the field.

Field Trip Report: Del Norte County, May 2007



Tom and Bart

Friday, May 18, 2007 found me driving 380 miles north to the Crescent City area to meet up with museum member Bart Cutino and a local contact in Hiouchi, CA. We had an evening rendezvous in town and proceeded to check out a nearby state park location. Unable to make camp on this land, we decided to head for the Six Rivers National Forest just outside of Hiouchi on Low Divide Road. As fate would have it, the clouds that were hugging the ridgeline above the Smith River were producing a fine, yet persistent drizzle at that elevation and we were undecided about the spot. As night fell, we were joined by a man who had found footprints in this wilderness last August and he offered to take us deep into the back-country in his 4-wheel drive vehicle.

Keith is a life-long resident of the area and he has hunted these mountains since childhood. He took us 20 or so bouncing miles back to a spot called North Fork on the



Campsite on Little Jones Creek Road

map, an isolated fishing spot along the north fork of the Smith River. We arrived late that night and stayed there for over an hour. We tried some call-blasting and stirred up something along the river that went crashing through the water. It was an excellent opportunity to see the road and possibly return here on a future outing. When we returned to our camp location after midnight, the light rain was still falling. We decided to go spend the night in our vehicles parked closer to the coast south of Crescent City. It was an uneventful night and the next morning I explored the Enderts Beach trail at the coast.

Saturday we met up with Jay Rommel in Hiouchi and set out for a location up river along Highway 199. We made camp along Little Jones Creek Road overlooking the Siskiyou Creek drainage. We were joined there by Keith, his brother Derek and his friend Derek. We employed call blasting again in the hope of generating a reply or some interest in our camp. We had no response to this effort, but were able to hear an excellent first-hand sighting account from Keith's friend, Derek.

He had a sighting along the Smith River near North Bank Road in 1987 when he was 9 years old. On this summer day, he was riding his bicycle with his older brother and his brother's friend and they had turned down a



Jay, Keith, his friend Derek, and his brother Derek

dirt road to Peacock Gulch. The road went through a thick grove of redwoods and ferns and Derek was in the lead. He suddenly noticed a large, hair covered creature squatting down in the ferns and came to a stop. He was 30 feet away and could see this creature was eating a fish. It stood up and both of his companions screamed and fled leaving Derek alone with the bigfoot. It looked at him and they locked eyes and the creature merely turned and walked away. Frozen in fear, he remained on that spot until his brother returned looking for him 5 – 10 minutes later.

We asked him some of the details he remembers from that morning. I asked him what he thought it was when he first noticed it. “A hairy man,” he replied. He stated it was covered in brown hair and was



The Golden Bear statue at Klamath River

approximately 6 feet tall. He clearly saw it eating a fish and could see the hands and face very well. There was a very putrid odor in the area and he doesn't remember it making any sound. This certainly was a great account to document and more than made up for our quiet night on the mountain.

Jay and I shared a tent and were awakened at 4 a.m. by rain falling on it. We got up and put a tarp in place and returned to get some more sleep. After breaking camp the next day and bidding our Hiouchi friends good-bye, Bart and I departed for Orick, CA south along Highway 101. From there, we drove over Bald Hills Road to Orleans, CA. That is one of the best drives in bigfoot country. Much of the land along that road is private, but the habitat is excellent on this ridge that runs between the Klamath River and Salmon Creek and the Redwood National Park.

We arrived in Orleans, CA after a quick stop at Weitchpec, CA on the Yurok Reservation. There we met up with James “Bobo” Fay and Jamie Jackson from Washington state. We followed them up and in on the G-O Road 24 miles back before a patch of snow halted our progress. They decided to drive to the Patterson- Gimlin film site along Bluff



Jamie and Bobo clear FS Road 12N13

Creek and had to remove many rocks along the way on Forest Service roads 12N12 and 12N13. At one point before the junction with the film site road, a tree had blocked our access. They took turns with an axe and a saw and eventually hooked a chain up to their truck to pull the tree aside. We know who opened up Bluff Creek and Louse Camp this year! Here are the photos to prove it. At this point late in the day, my trip north was over and I started back on my 8 hour journey home.



View of the cleared road

Bart provides us with a recap of their exciting encounter two nights later:

On our last night in an undisclosed location in the Bluff Creek area, 4 of us did experience what we've now determined was likely a large juvenile or possibly female (speculating from height) sasquatch, about my height (6'1" or so). I attempted to draw one into camp by call blasting the Ohio Scream 3 times in the area in a 45 minute period followed by the recording of a human

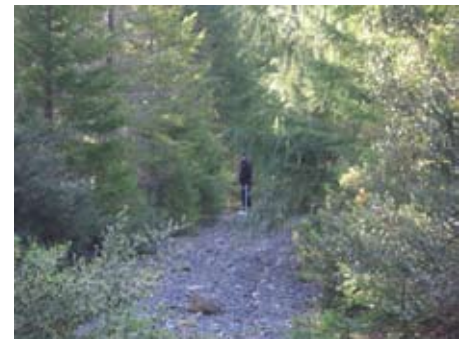
baby progressively crying, immediately after the last Ohio call- as a human reaction to the bigfoot calls. Roughly 30 to 40 minutes later, after I had already resumed a spy position on a T road exiting camp with Robert Leiterman, I heard the most cautious, distinct, bipedal steps and branch breaks I ever have in the forest, just 100 or so yards to my left (even hearing padded feet hit road and re-enter brush). I believe it was attempting to watch the 2 twenty-year-old kids camped there who we pre-positioned with a campfire (unbeknown to Robert and me they were hearing "something" as well at the time). After only several minutes of hearing this thing approach, both Bobo and Jamie walked past and proceeded left of our position, completely unaware of us or what may be around the corner. Meeting me back at camp 15 minutes later, we all realized that Jamie and Bobo had seen "someone" on the road and thought it was me (I was wearing a black beanie and sweater). It absolutely couldn't have been (everyone else was accounted for and I was never within 100 yards of the location and had been back at camp for 15 minutes). They told us they simultaneously turned around and briefly but clearly saw "it" – a quiet, 6 foot tall or so, black figure that seemed to pause and look at them before attempting to finish crossing the road away from camp (from about the exact position from where I heard it cross the road towards camp).

We were able to determine its pathway the next morning as they both showed me the location. It was even farther away from our observation post than I thought. They had me re-enact in daylight

what they observed cross the road. They photographed the re-enactment, to document the setting. From their position on the road, the subject was seen from a distance of roughly 30 yards in ample moonlight.

Bobo realized in hindsight, that as they walked that dirt road (where the sighting was) he noticed an oblong dark shadow inappropriate to the moonlight at the same spot where they saw what they thought was me. Meaning that the likely scenario was that the subject froze itself – caught off guard – and patiently waited for them to pass (within a few feet). When they had moved about 30 yards or so, they luckily turned around simultaneously and saw it cross the road. It wasn't something they heard that made them turn around, it was lucky timing.

Although we didn't hear anything after the subject was seen walking "away" from camp, I still made Robert stay up until 3 a.m. not moving or making a sound! In hindsight, perhaps the creative way I used the call blasted sounds brought it in (maybe... for all we know it was coming our direction anyway). I consider this a great team effort but also a missed opportunity on my part and a lesson learned, as I grossly underestimated "it" by positioning Robert and myself in a spot that would likely be too uncharacteristic, careless and bold to expose itself. Although I was armed with only a Sony nightshot, I could've captured at least a dark silhouette up to 20 yds with the moonlight had we positioned ourselves correctly. The idea is right, though, in my opinion; that is, to generate interest through sounds, food smells and a "ruse" camp even with fires and have people pre-positioned with proper equipment (QUIETLY) and far enough away (preferably before dark) 25-35 yds in the most likely vantage points or potential points of entry.



Bart poses at sighting location

That's what I missed! Thank you, Bart, for sharing the events of that night and also your ideas on field techniques.



Beegum Creek overlook



The forest across from our campsite

Field Trip Report – Shasta County, CA, June 2007

Museum member Ralph Jack and I had an excellent field excursion into the southern part of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. We were drawn there by a combination of events – one being a report submitted to the BFRO by a woman who stated that she had a “terrifying and intriguing” couple of nights at a forest service campground. The other was my interest in this region just south of the town of Hayfork, CA. These mountains between the Highway 101 corridor and Interstate 5 in the Sacramento Valley seem to offer excellent, contiguous habitat all the way from Lake County, CA into Oregon.



Ralph Jack at Hall City cave

We arrived on a blazing hot Sunday afternoon and spent the day exploring the upper reaches of Beegum Creek. That night we decided to camp near the creek close to where the woman reported vocalizations just 3 days prior to our arrival. We didn't do anything pro-active like call blasting that night, but we did leave out the food offering I have become accustomed to bringing to our field outings. We placed the apples about 50 yards from camp and settled into our tents before midnight. We didn't have anything to report from this night.

The next day we explored more of the region including a cave that was only 3 miles from the highway and a short ½ mile hike from the end of the road. Ralph reconnoitered the cave in as far as it would allow – about 70 feet. After dropping down two 8 foot drops, there was a creek and then a cavern filled with water. It was exciting and cool to see this cave. There was no indication this particular cave had any animal dwelling in it – certainly not a bigfoot.



Ralph holding his recording equipment

A storm passed through the region that afternoon and we waited out the 2 hours of rain in the tents watching old field outing videos to pass the time. Ralph was also working on documenting this outing quite well. We reviewed that tape and then the rain stopped and we got ready for the night. We started out seven miles from camp with some call blasting at an overlook high over Beegum Creek. The storm had passed but the wind was relentless along this ridgeline, so we decided to slowly make our way back to camp call blasting along the way. In this manner, we hoped to portray movement to our calling that would head back towards our creek side campground.

Once back in camp, we did our first call blast of the trip from this site at 10:04 p.m. utilizing a call known as the Ohio Howl. Six minutes later, as we both were in separate areas of the camp, a loud, distinct tree snap



occurred in the forest just across the small creek. There was no other thrashing or movement in the brush, just a singular, loud snapping of a branch or tree. We did record this event both with a digital recorder and on the camcorder audio. This was the extent of our possible action that night and we examined the area across the creek the next morning but were unable to determine exactly which deadfall, branch or tree had been snapped.

That was a good outing and a great area. If you are interested as to where we were, stop by the museum or give Mike a call. For now, we'll disseminate that information in person until we have the chance to investigate this area some more.

We would sure like to hear what you are up to this Summer – so please jot down your field notes and send them in to us! That's what it's all about! Happy 'Footing!

BIGFOOTER'S DATES

Bigfoot Discovery Day
June 30, 2007
Felton, CA – Santa Cruz, CA

Squatch Fest 2007
July 28-29
Lexington, Ohio
for info email:
usbigfootresearchassociation@yahoo.com

Honobia Bigfoot Conference
Oct. 5-6
Kiamichi Mtn Mission Camp Grounds
Honobia, OK

Texas Bigfoot Conference
November 10
Jefferson, TX

40th Anniversary International Bigfoot Symposium Oct. 20 - 21
Arcata, CA