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Colton blows out the candles

Message from the Curator

Now that we've had our second birthday party at the museum, I've included a photo depicting Ralph Jack's son Colton as he blows out the candles on his eleventh birthday cake (see above). Paula made the big foot shaped cake. The kids had a pajama party at the Bigfoot Riverside Retreat afterwards. There was Bigfoot Bingo and bigfoot movies at the museum along with pizza and drinks. In the morning Ralph took them down by the river where they made casts of their own feet.

During the month of October we had an event called Friday Night Frights. Every Friday night we projected Bigfoot movies on the side of the barn. Then, on Halloween we had a photo opportunity set up at the Bigfoot Museum. The idea was that kids could get their pictures taken, in costume, with one of two backdrops we provided. One was the bigfoot diorama (we swung open the front window/gate so they could pose between the two bigfoot models). The other setting was an "Alien Autopsy" scene we set up outside the museum. Our publicity was very minimal, but we did get some good response, so we'll try



it again next year with more publicity. That's museum member Matt Bento as the surgeon

A week or two ago Ralph Jack, Mike Barrow and I did a little hike into Nisene Marks Park after dark. The photo above shows Mike and Ralph preparing for the hike. We got an hour into the park when a car came roaring up the hill, bottoming out on the rough fire road. As we hid in the brush they zoomed past and proceeded to get stuck in a rut. We elected to abandon the climb at that point as we had no idea what kind of people these were. Besides, we had come across absolutely no wildlife.

Later that night Ralph and I decided to check out the woods above the museum near the Felton Quarry. We were there for a couple of hours near the ridge, and heard so many animal sounds that we decided to return a few days later. The second time we went out with Bill Tucker and spent over five hours recording the sounds of many nocturnal animals, including the water birds on a pond, neighborhood dogs, coyotes and perhaps something else. We don't have enough space available in this issue to go into details, so next issue we'll report on several local outings and our new research project.

--Michael Rugg

UPCOMING EVENT:

Ask A Scientist is an informative, entertaining monthly lecture series held at a San Francisco Cafe. Each event features a speaker on a scientific topic, a short presentation, and an opportunity to ask questions.

Tuesday, January 13th, 7:00 pm

Topic: Bigfoot and Other Wild Men of the Forest

"Bummer. The recent claim by two Georgia men to have discovered the remains of a Bigfoot corpse turned out to be a hoax. Sure, you didn't fall for it, but somehow a couple of blockheads and a frozen gorilla costume did manage to capture public attention and create a minor media stir. After all, Bigfoot, Yeti, and hordes of other cryptoid missing links have been igniting human imagination for ages. Even the most skeptical of us must wonder if it's possible there really could be large, undiscovered primates on earth, still unknown to us humans. Can we be so sure we've found them all? And if some enticing evidence presented itself, how would we test it scientifically? Tonight physical anthropologist Eugenie Scott will help us answer the question of whether or not we might one day be able to welcome some long lost relatives to the family tree. This event is presented in collaboration with the Bay Area Skeptics."

Speaker: Eugenie Scott; Physical Anthropologist and Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education

Location: Axis Cafe, 1201 8th Street (btw. 16th & Irwin) San Francisco



Bluff Creek Outing, October 9 – 11, 2008

by Tom Yamarone

photos by Tom Yamarone



Robert (on bicycle), Scott and Terry taking a break at the bat box area on Bluff Creek.

Summer officially ended in late September, but an early October trip to the Bluff Creek area reminded us that fall had officially arrived. It's a special season in those forests – the colors of the leaves, the crisp blue sky, and the chill in the air. It's also the anniversary month of the Patterson-Gimlin film. A small group of friends arranged to meet at Louse Camp this year. Most are museum members and fellow bigfooters and this trip had two primary goals: document any evidence or activity and relish a return to the Bluff Creek area for historic reasons. It turned out to be more of a survey of the area as a fire in the Siskiyou Wilderness had threatened these forests in late August and throughout September. In fact, the G-O Road and forest road 12N13 were closed until Friday, October 2nd. Fire crews had occupied the area to actively fight the fire near the end of the G-O Road and to prepare the road to Louse Camp (12N13).

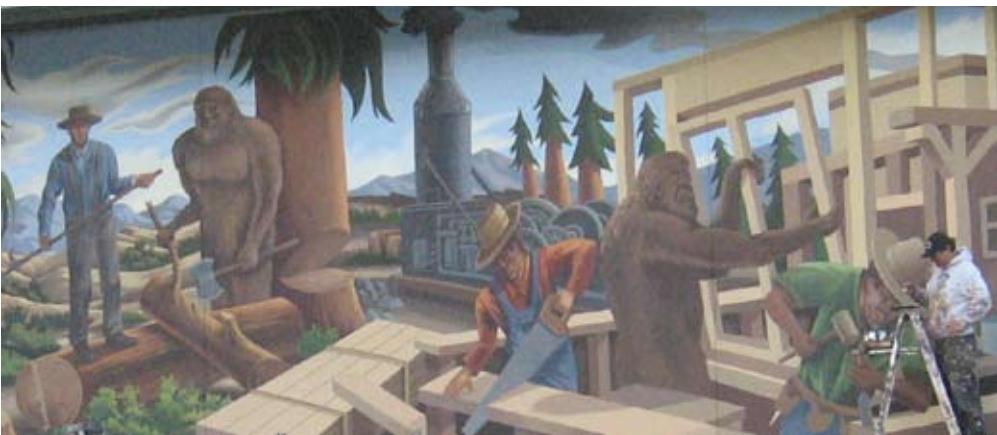
as a fire break. As a result, the roads were in great condition and there was plenty of firewood within a mile of so of camp. And did we ever need it! A cold front had moved through on Thursday and the nighttime temperatures were in the mid-30s.

Scott McClean and I arrived in Willow Creek, CA and made contact with Terry Smith and Stephanie Siegert who had traveled from the Los Angeles area. There was a new bigfoot mural in town on the side of the new hardware store. I took some photographs and ran across the street to speak with the artist, Duane Flatmo. The mural depicts the various stages of development in Willow Creek from gold rush town through the lumber days and bigfoots are working side-by-side with the residents. It looks great and will certainly be a photo-op for years to come.



Scott, Terry, Brian Horton and Robert looking at some interesting prints along Bluff Creek.

We arrived in camp fairly late and got set up. There we met up with Robert Leiterman from Fortuna, CA and Bart Cutino arrived later that evening. The only activity we tried that night was some



Artist Duane Flatmo paints a new bigfoot mural in Willow Creek.

call blasting a few miles up on Onion Mountain. No responses were heard. We recorded audio overnight in camp and did not have any obvious activity.



The forest surrounding Onion Lake.

The next morning, Bart, Scott and I drove up to Onion Lake to have a look around and check to perimeter for footprints. There is a single campsite at the small, heavily wooded, mountain lake. Over the years, reports of possible vocalizations and breaking branches have come out of this area. It was also the sight of multiple footprint discoveries in the 1960s.

Later that afternoon, we drove down the steep, overgrown road to the Patterson-Gimlin film site. That's a wild ride in any vehicle and should not be attempted in a regular passenger car. As always, that spot (that many call the bat box) inspires awe in the beholder. The steep-walled creek canyon, heavily wooded now 41 years later, still seems like perfect habitat for these creatures, especially when one considers that the roads into that area are closed by snow from December through May each year. We hiked around and some of our group even took the obligatory dip in Bluff Creek.

We had uneventful yet enjoyable nights on Friday and Saturday and took the time to explore the Cedar Camp area and Mosquito Lake. We met two new bigfooting friends from Redding, CA on Saturday and they joined our camp for Saturday night. Also, several other local residents and the proprietor of Bigfoot Books in Willow Creek were out camped in another area.

We endured the cold and had three good nights in the Six Rivers National Forest. That would be my last time to that area this year. On the way home we stopped by the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum to look at the bigfoot collection and pick up some gifts. It was a great week out with friends. That's a quick review from our trip. Enjoy the photographs of the area and please, as usual, let us know what you've been up to and send us any accounts and photos of your trips out in bigfoot country.



Mosquito Lake near Cedar Camp. The muddy shores had a multitude of bear prints but no bigfoot sign.



BFRO Redwoods Expedition **Sept. 11-14, 2008** **by Brandon Kiel**

Wednesday, Sept. 10th.

A few people arrived early to the expedition and so tonight we met up to check out a location the BFRO had visited a few years back. The area itself is heavily forested and dense with foliage. We decided to keep tonight short as most of them had driven many hours to get here (some driving from as far away as Texas, Missouri, and Kansas). While on a 90 minute hike we did a few "bio-calls" but received no responses.

Thursday, September 11th.

The majority of the folks attending arrived and we had a general 'meet and greet' at 5pm followed by a discussion as to where we were going to be that night. I had decided that our focus would be on 4-5 different locations and that we would survey the same sites every night. I broke

everyone up into groups of 5-7 and they were dispatched to 5 different locations all within roughly 15 miles of each other. At 10pm six individuals were sent into an area that runs parallel to a swamp (now referred to as Location #1). Five others were sent to walk a disused fire road located on a ridge-line north of and essentially parallel to the swamp (Location #2). The folks on Location #1 were there for about 4 hours and reported hearing a clear "coughing-like" sound as they neared the end of the hiking trail. They had no other occurrences that evening.

The folks at Location #2 had visited this area earlier in the day and found stick weavings, large stick formation X's that seemed to delineate game trails, and no indication that this road was currently in use, either by hikers or vehicles. This group started their night investigation about 45 minutes after those on Location #1. About 20 minutes into the hike, the group at Location #2 reported hearing a short "howl-type moan" coming from the trailhead of Location #1. The group on Location #1 did not hear this vocalization probably because at this point they were about 2 miles from the trailhead.

Approximately 90 minutes later, members of Location #2 reached an open meadow along the ridge line where they sat down to rest. It was then that a member of the group utilizing a thermal unit viewed a heat signature up the trail either high on a ridge or midway up a large tree. He asked that another member verify what he was seeing and that member was in agreement. The second member then noticed the heat signature "disappear" only to reappear at the base of a tree where it began "playing a kind of peek-a-boo". This lasted for approximately one minute and then the heat signature was gone. There were no other events at this location that night.

A third trail (Location #3) was situated about three miles northeast of Location #2. It was lead mostly by female investigators and this hike lasted approximately two hours. For all intents and purposes the investigation of this area concluded without any activity. As they were departing the area a member made

mention of the fact that she had felt "a strange 'get-out' feeling" as they entered and exited the trailhead. This "feeling" was then corroborated by several others in the group; one who also added she felt a "surge of adrenaline and anxiety disconnected from fear".

The other locations reported no unusual activity though barred owls were heard. Upon arriving back at the base camp several members reported hearing unmistakable wood knocks coming from two distinct locations. This lasted for approximately 10 minutes and then stopped.

Friday, Sept. 12th.

BFRO Field Investigator Bill Brewer lead a demonstration at 1pm on proper casting methods. Approximately 15 people attended. They were able to make their own casts of human footprints as well as local animal tracks found on the site.

A group of investigators convened at about 8pm on what will be referred to as Location #4. This location was approximately 2 miles from base camp. The 4 mile trail began by ascended a steep ridge line, followed said ridge line parallel to the coast, then dropped into an unmaintained grassy prairie that wound along a stream.

The first 3/4ths of the hike was uneventful and at about 11:15pm the group was nearing the trail head when a member heard what he best describes as two loud "harrumph-coughs" coming from the hillside, along with what he surmised to be talking. Thinking a group of hikers was ascending the ridge line, a thermal unit was utilized and three figures were seen together on the hillside at a distance of about 500 feet. On the left was the heat signature of a figure standing up straight; no specific body parts or appendages could be distinguished. In the center was the heat signature of something laying on the ground. And on the right was a slightly smaller figure standing upright. All were behind various bits of foliage that could be seen giving off a different heat signature. None of the figures appeared to be wearing clothing.



BFRO Group: Members attending the BFRO's Fall Redwoods Expedition

A second investigator was asked to view this and he agreed with the assessment. The thermal unit was then handed back to the first investigator who observed the figure on the left ascend the ridge diagonally "though I never observed a gait, arm, or leg movement...it was almost as if it just floated up the hill and out of sight." When he returned to the other two figures only one could be found. This figure had moved behind what appeared to be a stump. For the next two minutes the investigator watched as the figure "bobbed and weaved behind the stump almost like a boxer would. It moved very fluidly and was constantly in motion. It would move left, disappear, pop back up in the center, move to the right, disappear, then reappear near the bottom of the stump...over and over again."

After about two minutes of this the investigator states that he suddenly was overcome with the strong sentiment that he "didn't want to see this anymore". He abruptly handed the thermal unit to another investigator, saying, "I don't want to see this, I can't look at this anymore." He states that he wasn't fearful of the situation, but that he suddenly found himself inundated with emotion and close to tears. This investigator has been with the BFRO for approximately four years, is an avid hunter and outdoorsman, and has been on many expeditions. The other investigators wanted to stay in the area but after a few minutes they all exited towards the trailhead. After about 10 minutes they returned to the area but could not re-locate the figure(s).

At around 3am several investigators were monitoring elk activity at the trail head of Location #2. Using the thermal unit they

located a group of elk and were looking around a field when one noticed a heat signature standing alone and unobstructed between two trees amid a patch of ripe blackberries. The investigator states that he "immediately knew it was a sasquatch". He describes it as standing slightly sideways, having an oval shaped head, rounded shoulders, almost no neck, and having a thick torso. He watched it move its arms slowly in front of it as if it were parting grass. The investigator called another over to confirm this sighting but the second investigator mistook the heat signature of several trees and couldn't locate the animal. He then passed the thermal unit back to the first investigator. Again he was able to locate it, he called a third investigator over and this investigator was able to see the head of a figure now crouching down into the blackberry brambles. The thermal unit was then passed back to the first investigator who then observed the animal rise up from the thicket and turn to look at him. After a few seconds of staring at the investigator it strode off into the brush. Everyone in the vicinity heard the exit.



BFRO Thermal: BFRO investigator Brandon Kiel stands in the blackberry patch where an expedition member saw a bigfoot watching his group. The animal's height was determined to be 9.5'

This investigator also reported feeling overwhelmed with emotion during the sighting and "at points wanting to not see what I was seeing". Shortly after this they left the area.

Location #3 was visited by a group of new investigators who reported no discernible activity, but many in the group agreed with those of the previous night to feeling as if they weren't wanted there with occasional waves of anxiety that subsided once they were past the trail head.

Several investigators heard numerous howls around 11pm at the base camp.

Saturday, Sept. 13th.
At approximately 2pm Ranger Robert Leiterman lead a class on tracking and how to read a trackway. It was attended by approximately 20 people.

At 3pm investigators returned to Location #2 to do follow up research. The area was densely filled with blackberry bushes, stinging nettle, ferns, and sawgrass. Ranger Leiterman was able to locate the pathway and direction that the animal traveled and agreed that the foliage on the pathway had been very recently disturbed. An investigator who is 6ft tall stood where the witness had seen the animal. A measuring tape was used to determine the height of the animal to be 9ft.

Saturday night was mostly quiet with little activity to report. Location #3 was visited by yet another new set of investigators who heard "rock clacking" about 3 miles into their hike. This group did not report any feelings of anxiety. Location #1 was visited at 10pm and again at 3am with no activity. Location #2 was visited at 12am with no reports of activity.

Sunday, September 14th.
The attendees were dispersed.

I would like to thank the BFRO Investigators who attended and assisted me on this trip as well as all of those in attendance. I feel it was undoubtedly a huge success and I hope to work with you all again in the future.

Brandon