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Message from the Curator

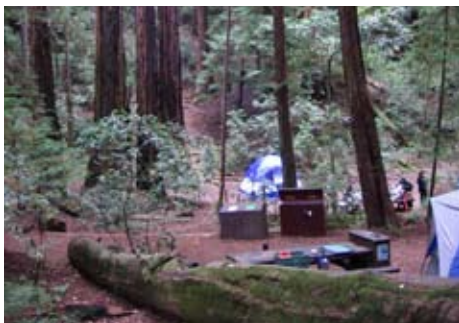
Now that we've had our first official local museum campout, we know a lot more about planning the next one. We had a good sized and variegated group with ages ranging from about 16-60. The male-female ratio was about 2:1.

The outing consisted of setting up a tent camp in the absolutely hobbit-like forest in Butano State Park, (some of our participants had never camped in the redwoods before) and hiking some of the trails before and after dark.

First the tents were set up, then we cooked a community spaghetti dinner with trimmings, the camp light was lit and the fire started. After the meal it was off on a hike.

Myself, Tom, Mike B and Tracey walked the mid-ridge trails while Jim and Bill went up on the higher ridge trails, with Paula and Kari holdin' down the fort at camp. Hillary and Dean headed back towards the front entrance, to move their car (1st lesson: reserve drive-in camps) but all four groups were in touch via walkie-talkies.

The first group attempted some tree knocks and calls, while receiving feed-back from camp on the walkie talkies. The second group (Jim and Bill) came across the apparent victims of a predator – they found deer and wild pig skeletons in close proximity on an upper level of the canyon. They forgot the camera so we have no pictures, but Jim showed us the pig's skull. They said they were a bit scattered about, but easily recognizable as two very distinct ungulates. Hillary & Dean left some strawberries on a trail to see if any animals would take them and leave sign of their passing.



We then returned to the camp for a round of music around the campfire until quiet-time. There was further conversation about bigfoot and other such mysteries until about 1:00 AM and then everyone did lights out. After the morning meal, we took a walk on one of the trails near the spot where H&D parked, and really enjoyed the beauty of that little canyon. We saw banana slugs and newts, some first growth redwood, but no bigfoot.

Early in the morning before breakfast I drove out to Gazos Creek Road to see how far it goes towards Big Basin. I found it was gated just 3.3 miles in from the junction with Cloverdale Road. We plan to scout other local camp sites as we intend to have future outings in both Big Basin and Cowell Parks.



A couple of weeks ago, Lance came by the museum and ended up directing traffic on Highway 9 until the Fire Dept. showed up. I was dialing 911 before the dump truck that lost its brakes on San Lorenzo Ave in front of the museum had even flipped over. There have been at least 15 of these runaway trucks careening past the building over the years.

After the excitement of the accident had subsided, Lance and I set out to explore the area near Nisene Marks Park where so much activity has been reported. Most recently a couple of sisters living in that area heard a ferocious roaring scream at midnight. The woman's cat shot straight up in the air then jumped under the bed, while the dog outside was strangely mute. We hiked the orchard on the hill above the property, not far from where 3 youths reported seeing a BF 3 years ago. We found tracks of all sorts of things, but no BF tracks. We did note that the area is so thick with brush—including pampas grass—that a BF

could sleep a few yards from the road and never be seen.



Further investigation higher up towards the summit brought us into the depths of the park through a back road usually closed to the public. It gave a clear view of the many steep little canyons that make up the watershed above Aptos. I was surprised by the number of hillside orchards—loaded with fruit—we found along the way. Apples, persimmons and avocados are all available in vast quantities. There are many vineyards and two deer crossed the one-lane road right in front of us.



Last week one of our nearby members, Greg, called to report alarmingly loud screams that awoke both he and his wife at 4:50 AM. He asked around the neighborhood and several others heard it. Consensus is that it came from the direction of the quarry at the top of the ridge. The area includes the creek we investigated last November where we found a stick house built up against a fir tree. The property owners there had also heard loud screams which prompted them to contact us. Last issue I mentioned a woman who saw red eyeshine near the quarry late one night.

I drove up there a few nights ago and found it to be relatively remote by the time you reach the quarry entrance. I also observed a number of places where the woman could have seen the eye shine. Next I'll question the quarry manager about footprints, calls, or other things that might go on up there at night.

All in all its been a pretty active month for field work. I'll keep you posted on progress.

---Michael Rugg

Correction: EB has asked me to change the weight calculation for Patty he mentioned previously from 38,000 lbs to 4700 lbs.

One Week at Bluff Creek

July Outing Notes
By Tom Yamarone



The heat was baking the Sacramento Valley as we passed through Redding, California. The thermometer read 114 degrees and Weaverville was still in triple digits late in the afternoon. When we left highway 96 in Orleans, it was under 100 degrees, but just barely. As we climbed the G-O Road to our final destination, the forest was a bit cooler but not much. That's how it goes. Heat wave or not, we were out in the Six Rivers National Forest and in good company. My partner for this adventure was my good friend, Bob Strain, and we were meeting up with Cliff Barackman and Jimbo "Bobo" Fay.

Our goal for this week in the field was the same as always – attempting to document the existence of bigfoot. We wanted photographic evidence in the form of pictures or video, and were searching for circumstantial evidence as well – tracks, hair, scat,

or audio recordings of possible vocalizations and other sounds. I will tell you up front that only the last of these goals was met, thanks in large part to the recording equipment brought to the field by Cliff. After hours of recording each night, he documented a loud wood knock and a very clear whistle.

We camped in an isolated valley near the headwaters of Blue Creek. Bob and I set up camp near the entrance to the valley and we operated as any campers would – the normal routine of cooking, camp fires, and exploratory hikes enjoying the natural beauty of the area. Bobo and Cliff camped a quarter of a mile away and maintained a cold camp with no use of lights at night. Each morning we would meet up and discuss the events of the previous night. They heard many unusual sounds – trees breaking, wood knocks, whistles and even a distant call early one morning. Bob and I slept soundly and the only thing we heard was a loud exchange between two barn owls at 4:30 am.

We spent three nights in this location and decided to spend the remainder of our trip down at Bluff Creek. We drove down to what many bigfoot enthusiasts refer to as the "film site" – the location along Bluff Creek where the Patterson-Gimlin film was obtained in 1967. It is very different now than it was at that time – very overgrown with thick stands of brush and alders along the creek and heavily wooded, steep hillsides closing in around the canyon. The creek is easy to cross but the going is rough as each step along the way is a step on a variety of different sized rocks. Rocks...that's what defines Bluff Creek these days. A little ways upstream there are some sand bars and we located tracks of deer, bear, bobcat, raccoon and a lone hiker accompanied by a small dog.

At this location, as at the previous one, we did attempt some active interaction with our own wood knocks and calls. We also tried call blasting here in the canyon of Bluff Creek using alleged sasquatch calls and a soundtrack with a baby crying.





This was an attempt to solicit the curiosity of the local inhabitants and it did not produce results. As some of you know who have been out in similar situations, a lack of results does not necessarily mean there were no bigfoot present. In my opinion, they are the ones who have the option of revealing themselves and I do believe it was well known to all the forest animals nearby that we were there. The smells and sounds associated with us traveled well on the wind. Yes,



we were there...they probably were as well, but they didn't let us know if that were the case.

Cliff and Bobo scoured the creek bed for signs of activity covering miles of territory while Bob and I explored a smaller area at our own pace. In the end, we got to see some fine country and very good habitat. We took many photos – some of which I'll share here with you – and cast some bear, raccoon and deer tracks as well. I won't conclude that we were satisfied just to be out in the woods. No, we certainly hoped for better results but it was time well spent. We will return to Bluff Creek in the coming months and continue to explore the Sierra Nevada Mountains as well as the Santa Cruz Mountains in our area. We may try some different techniques and approaches to our research, but we made the effort and were ready to document – that's the best anyone can hope for.

I hope you enjoy the photos and would ask you to share with us accounts of your bigfoot outings. Our work here at the museum to

document bigfoot activity in California continues and we welcome your association in this endeavor.



Up-Date on Field Investigations:

Museum member and fellow field researcher Cliff Barackman contacted me by phone on Wednesday, August 16, 2006 to let me know he had recorded several different vocalizations last night in Gifford-Pinchot National Forest in Washington. He spent two nights at two different locations and had returns to his call blasting efforts. While utilizing the Ohio Howl at 10:30 PM on Monday in a meadow near Big Butte, he had a distant return call of a similar howl. It's a distant recording – “barely audible above the crickets,” he stated.

Then last night, he was camping further south in the forest and had a distant return to his 11:00 PM call blast. Within 20 minutes, loud wood knocking was occurring approximately 100 yards from camp and then a variety of vocalizations – ranging from a howl-type to a scream – emanated from the woods across the meadow in the opposite direction from the first return call. Activity continued around camp for a half hour or so and then it quieted down.

That's exciting news and just what we're looking to hear! We'll look forward to hearing those vocalizations at the September monthly meeting. See you there!



Left top: Sign on the road to P/G Film site;

Left bottom: Bobo, Bob, Tom and Cliff;

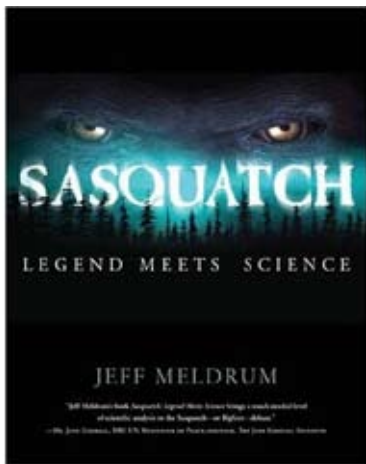
Right top: Exploring Bluff Creek sandbars;

Right Bottom: Bobo does the "Patty walk" at the film site

Book Review
by Tom Yamarone

Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science
by Jeff Meldrum

(A Forge Book, published by Tom Doherty and Associates, New York)



Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science by Jeff Meldrum is one of the most comprehensive treatments of the subject since *Sasquatch – The Apes Among Us* by John Green (Hancock House, 1977 & 2006) and *Meet the Sasquatch* by Christopher Murphy in association with John Green and Thomas Steenburg (Hancock House, 2004). In this book he shares his ten years of research with us along with in depth analyses of the topics touched upon in the ground breaking documentary *Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science* (produced by Doug Hajicek, White Wolf Productions, 2003). Indeed, the book project was intended as a companion piece to the documentary – and it is – but it also contains much more. In many ways this book takes the various facets of sasquatch evidence and research to a new level thanks to the insight of Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum.

For many years Dr. Meldrum has contributed to the body of bigfoot research with his analyses of the footprint casts and his research on bipedal locomotion – not to mention his personal field research and his recent association with the North American Ape Project.

The introductory chapter is a personal journal of Jeff Meldrum's journey in the world of bigfoot. It's a fascinating account of his association with prominent sasquatch researchers such as Dr. Grover Krantz (to whom the book is dedicated), Richard Greenwell, Paul Freeman, Doug Hajicek and others. I had always heard about the expedition into the Siskiyou Wilderness with Richard Greenwell and it's a story that's been retold at many a campfire in Northern California. Herein, we get the first-hand account of that expedition along with some fantastic photographs from the "early years" of Dr. Meldrum's exploration. We also are treated to the account of his first major track way discovery while visiting with

Paul Freeman near the Blue Mountains of Washington in 1996.

Chapter 1 is about Cryptozoology. Now, you might be expecting a general definition of the search for unknown animals and the usual treatment involving the coelacanth and the okapi. He takes it a huge bound further and tackles in a very convincing manner the topics of the yeti, the Shipton footprint photo, the recent discovery of *Homo floresiensis*, some early accounts of the sasquatch in anthropology research in the Pacific Northwest and bigfoot in California. He concludes, "A growing number of scientists no longer perceive the sasquatch as an extraordinary possibility. For some, it boils down to a question of the probability or likelihood that such an animal could exist unconfirmed at this time in this place."

Chapter 2 tackles the Ray Wallace wooden feet fiasco – mostly a fiasco with the media, I might add – and settles that claim once and for all. It's a very thorough accounting of what went on in the Bluff Creek area in 1958 and soon thereafter with Jerry Crew, Bob Titmus, Al Hodgson and other key players at that time. Comparative illustrations and original photographs are utilized to further his explanation of this matter.

Chapter 3 deals with the Native American traditional knowledge of this animal and, again, Dr. Meldrum's insight takes us a level deeper. He delves into some of the early treatment that the Wildman of the Woods received and cleverly finds parallels in the behavior of the great apes – something only brought to light in the last few decades thanks to the research in primatology since the late 1950s. "For the Native American as with many ethnic populations around the world, the realms of the 'natural' and the 'supernatural' exist as one seamless reality. Sasquatch is a definite feature of that reality."

Chapter 4 is about Gigantopithecus and he has some unique opinions that differ with what we have come to know about this ancient giant ape. One is that he believes there is evidence in the wear on the tooth enamel that indicates it was more than just a bamboo eater; indeed, it was likely more of the general omnivore like a chimpanzee. And he also makes the case for bipedalism that Grover Krantz championed in his day. This chapter ends with an in-depth treatment of the "where are the bones?" question. Like most of the subjects dealt with in this amazing book, the author is always adding fascinating details and examples that aren't found in previous books featuring similar topics.

The rest of the book continues with excellent coverage of the following topics: the Skookum cast, the Patterson-Gimlin film, behavioral parallels with the great apes, alleged bigfoot vocalizations, statistical analyses of footprint data, the evidence of footprints, dermatoglyphics, DNA and physical evidence. He was

intricately involved in the initial analysis of the Skookum cast and has many personal insights to share. There is a chapter retelling the Patterson-Gimlin film event utilizing the personal recollections of Bob Gimlin – indeed, some rare insight into that momentous occasion.

The book succeeds not only due to the outstanding writing, but thanks to the contributions of a multitude of researchers who cooperated on this project. There are some amazing photographs that have never been published – one especially remarkable photograph of John Green showing the residents of Agassiz, B.C. a footprint cast in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

The foreword is an illuminating essay by the renowned gorilla researcher George B. Schaller. He states that he is intrigued by this subject, but is neither a believer nor does he reject the possibility that the sasquatch exists. He profoundly reminds us that "so far searches for these humanlike beings have been based on short expeditions, casual outings or dependent on lucky encounters. A good field study of a species is based upon months and years of work, of living in the wilderness to examine spoor and monitor shadowed forest trails, hoping for contact." Appropriately, Jane Goodall is thanked in the author's acknowledgments "for affording the time to read and endorse this book and to hazard an open position of acknowledgment of the value and need for this inquiry." Perhaps we will someday witness the results of just what Dr. Schaller is calling for – and be privy to the reports of a future "Jane Goodall" in sasquatch research. If so, we will know that this book will be in the possession of that researcher in that isolated forest canyon deep in the North American wilderness.

Any sasquatch enthusiast will treasure this book because it covers the subject thoroughly and is punctuated with fantastic photographs. The information contained in these pages will not only bolster the search for a resolution to this mystery, it will convince many skeptics that indeed there is a great possibility that we share our world with a large, hirsute unknown hominid. Congratulations, Jeff Meldrum and all who worked on this project. It is a landmark publication in the realm of sasquatch research and information.

Additional Information:

The book contains 16 chapters, a selected bibliography, an index and is 304 pages.

It will be released September 19, 2006 and can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com.

The hard cover edition sells for \$17.61 there, discounted from the \$27.95 list price.

Here is a link to the amazon.com page:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0765312166>

BIGFOOTER'S DATES

October 13-15, 2006 **Texas Bigfoot Conference** Jefferson, TX

www.texasbigfoot.com