

Peppersauce Cave Graffiti Removal and Restoration

September 21-23, 2018

Restoration Trip 7 and Project Completion Report

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Summary:



Peppersauce Cave is now clean of graffiti for the first time in over 50 years. This trip completes the large project weekend efforts. **Another 200 graffiti tags were eliminated, bringing the running total to approximately 1500+ removed from the cave.** The trip completed the removal of the remaining graffiti in the **Rabbit Hole Maze** in the back of the cave as well as all of the graffiti in the **Peppersauce Annex**. Any remaining graffiti that has been missed can be removed with small teams with wire brushes, battery powered drills and grinders. **The total estimated volunteer value for the project is \$116,125.97.**

There has been no new graffiti since the August restoration. A total of **50 participants helped over the weekend**; 10 on Friday, 45 on Saturday, 8 on Sunday. The oldest tag in the Peppersauce Annex was 1993. The volunteers were from the Central Arizona Grotto, southern Arizona grottos, the ASU Outdoor Club (9), and Boy Scout Troop 194 (Phoenix). The small scouts were useful in collecting trash in places where adults could not fit.

There were enough volunteers and equipment to also start on the Peppersauce Annex on Saturday and completed on morning. The Annex graffiti had not removed in either the 2001-2003 or 2010 cleaning efforts so there were multiple layers of tags in the Entrance Room.

The PBS local affiliate from Tucson completed their episode. The seven minute piece is online at <https://tv.azpm.org/p/azill-recent/2018/9/10/136747-restoring-peppersauce-cave/>. The producer was Tony Paniagua. They did a nice job of telling the story.

Related Project Items:

- A project summary including the August work was put on Peppersauce Cave Facebook page. There are 2200 followers to the page. A link was included to the 7 minute PBS segment on Peppersauce. Within a week the posts had reached 11,900 of which 2400 were 'Engaged' (whatever that means). There were 700 'likes'. These numbers have dropped off dramatically the following two weeks, but the project story line is out there. The take away is that many of the visitors have been told and responded positively.
- There was no damage to the green "→" arrows and "OUT →" signs.
- One Forest Road caution sign at the bridge was destroyed and thrown in the wash. The sign was removed.
- A VS Report was submitted for the April 22nd to July 31st period and the project completion VS Report is being prepared. The total estimated volunteer value through September 28, 2018 is \$116,125.97. We are using the \$0.55/mile for mileage calculations. If you would prefer we can calculate volunteer value using \$0.18/mile. Please let us know.
- The major accomplishments for the weekend were:
 1. Adequate staffing was achieved on all three days.
 2. On Friday electricity and phone lines were placed from the surface to the Book Room.
 3. We removed around 200ish spray paint and scratched tags during the weekend. The total count removed in the cave for the project is above 1500 tags at this point. We will need to do some touch up removals. The September progress is colored in  Sept 2018 and  Needs more work. **Figure 1 shows the current cleaning status.**
 4. New registers were placed in the Big Room and the Book Room. The old Book Room register was removed.
 5. The glow-in-the-dark 'stars' in the Book Room (see August report) were worked all day Saturday and are mostly gone.
- Less than one gallon of bio-degradable solvent was used.
- No injuries were reported.

Progress: Figure 1 shows the areas cleaned by trip.



Graffiti has been removed from these passages. More work is needed in the Needs more work passages.

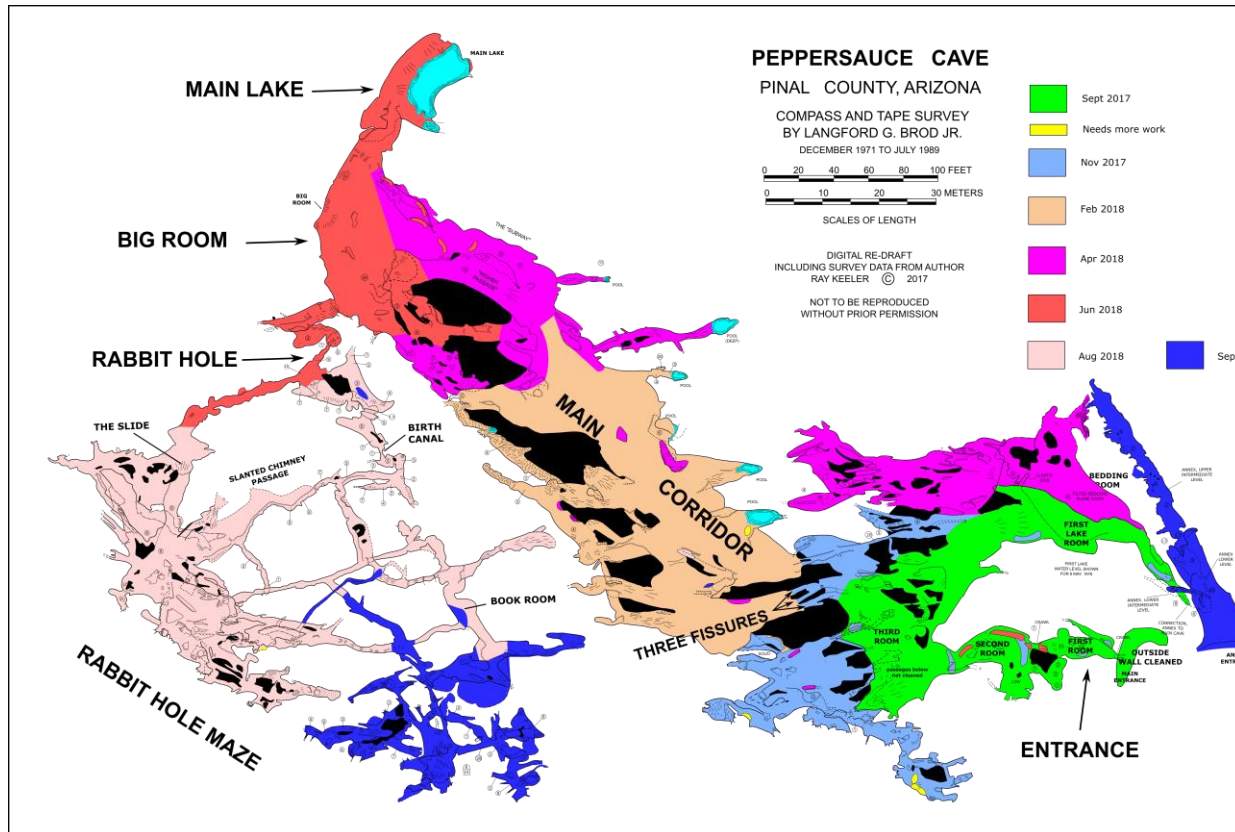


Figure 1: Peppersauce graffiti removal progress. (map by R. Keeler)

Problems:

There were very few problems. There was adequate help and equipment on all three days.

Lessons Learned

- Bucket labeling (painters tape) allowed setup onsite to go quickly.
- Telephone comms (party line between the Surface, Big Room, Book Room) was extremely helpful
- Getting volunteer commitments for specific days starting well in advance worked well again. About 90 cavers were contacted of which 41 said 'Yes'. There were a few no shows due to car trouble, illness, work.
- Teaming wire brushing cavers with both solvent electric drill and grinder cavers works well. Brushing first, then solvent then or electric drills is quicker and has less impact on the cave.
- Doing personalized safety briefings **and** teaming with experienced new volunteers is substantially more efficient than one large briefing.

Project Totals:

- **160 volunteers drove 28,300 miles and worked 2800 hours to complete the project. (103 male, 57 female)**
- **\$4,470 was received in money donations** (Central Arizona Grotto, Arizona Region-NSS, Conservation Fund-NSS, Richmond Area Speleological Society (RASS), Stuart Lindsay, Southern Arizona Grotto, Escabrosa Grotto)
- **\$1450 (approx) in equipment** (primarily Coronado NF, Jeff Stevens, Henry Schneider)

Photos from the September 21st – 23rd weekend:
Peppersauce-Rabbit Hole Maze



Book Room – Cleaning florescent 'stars' on ceiling, phone call with surface (left side)



Looking straight up 20 feet, you can see the caver's legs and butt while cleaning higher graffiti.



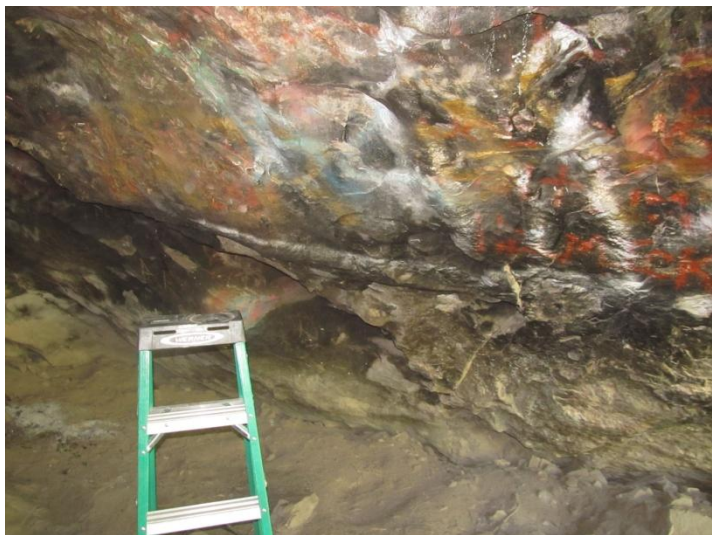
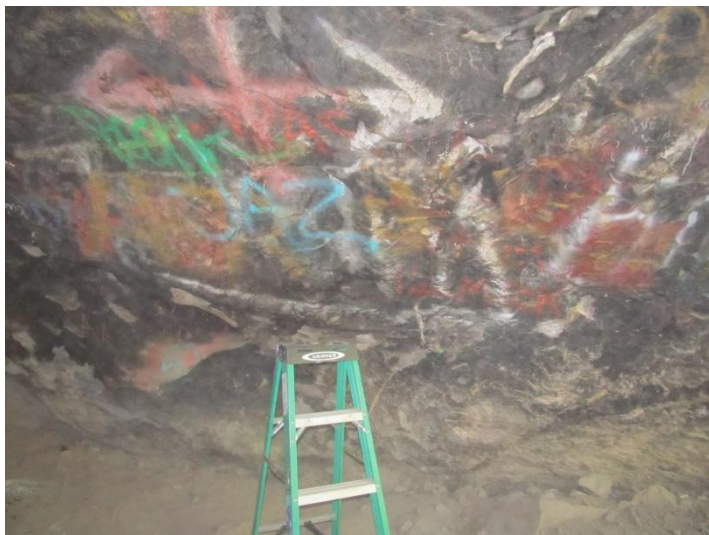
Caver removing graffiti higher in passage



Caver returning from wire brushing tags farther in.



Book Room. Checking the map for what is done and what is left to do.



Peppersauce Annex – Right Wall , before



Peppersauce Annex – Right Wall , after



Peppersauce Annex – Main Passage, most tags gone



Peppersauce Annex – in progress



Peppersauce Annex – 420 started



Peppersauce Annex – 420 after