

SASQUATCH AND THE AMATEUR RESEARCHER

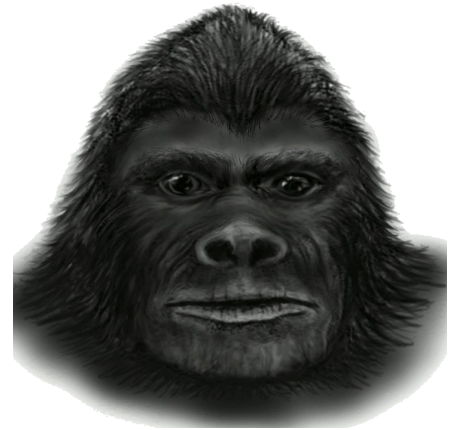


Written by the Sasquatch Searcher

Sasquatch and the Amateur Researcher

Sasquatch research, though not usually thought of as a science by the mainstream, shares many of the same qualities as other professional/amateur fields, though at present there are no professional sasquatch scientists as there are in other disciplines. Biologists, and anthropologists are often too absorbed in their own research to take the time and resources to look for evidence of something that isn't even sure to exist. The few scientists that do spend any time doing so, are often putting their careers at considerable risk, but will someday be applauded for their foresight. This leaves a niche for amateurs to step in and make some real contributions.

What I am proposing is not simple. The amateur bigfoot researcher faces some of the same challenges as their professional counterparts, but faces several unique problems inherent to “sasquatching” itself.



Educate Yourself

Like amateurs from other disciplines, the amateur sasquatch researcher should learn as much as possible about the current thoughts of the professionals. This knowledge includes, but is not limited to: primate evolution, anatomy, behavior and communication. Since there is little or no evidence of sasquatch culture in the human sense of the word, most beneficial education will be in the field of primatology. Feel free to explore that realm as it relates to the sasquatch. There's more than enough room for everybody, but just be sure to do your homework and learn as much as you can about your field of interest. Read everything you can find on sasquatching from the Internet, check out all the great books on the subject, talk to fellow researchers on what to look for and how to act in the sasquatch woods, learn how to become a woods-person, (someone who is at home in the wilderness). You need to absorb as much as you can, and never stop learning while you are doing your research.

One key thing to remember about sasquatching is that scientific facts about the species are rare. Several scientists have written some very good books on the

subject and much of the information they refer to is based on fact. However, so long as you're dealing with an unknown species a great deal of information is subject to an educated guess or conjecture. A very good example of this is the statement that the species travels in family groups.



Now researchers have detected multiple sets of footprints in many locations around North America as well as many single footprints. Also, there are numerous encounter reports from different sources of multiple specimens being observed at the same time. The underlined statement above would be an educated guess based upon footprint finding and observations but it should read the species may travel in groups.

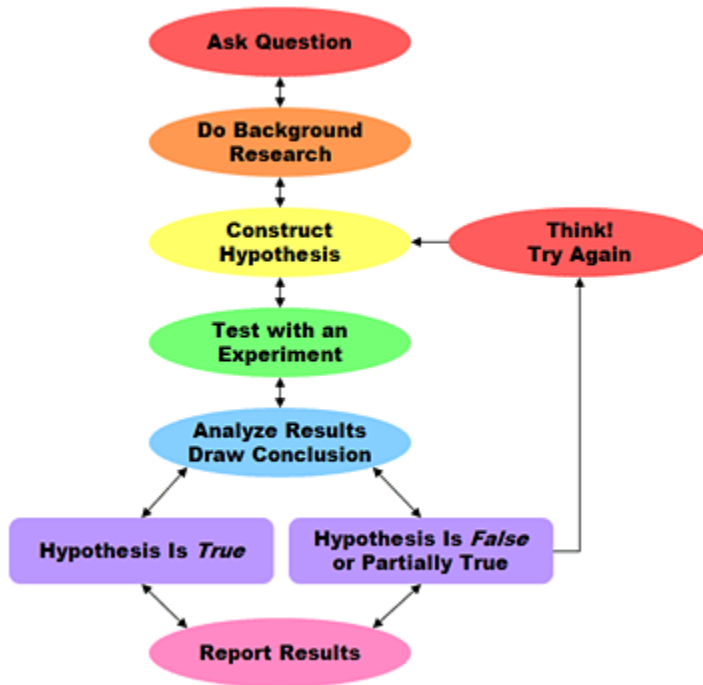
As you learn about the species become very discreet about what is scientific fact and what is subjective based upon observations. Another example of this is DNA samples. Several samples now exist which have been identified as “primate in origin species unknown”. Since the species is still unknown all DNA evidence gathered and identified as primate in origin but not from a known species will stay unknown. Scientists lack the evidence to date to identify the specific species to which the samples belong.

Do the science

Amateur sasquatch researchers should do their best to follow scientific methods. In a simple form, the scientific method is as follows:

1. Ask a question. (ask lots of question)
2. Observe (look for things that could point to an answer or pose a question).
3. Take a guess at the answer. This answer is called a hypothesis.
4. Design and execute an experiment to see if your hypothesis could be right.
5. See if you're right. If you are, do it again to see if you're still right. If

- you're not, change your hypothesis and go back to step 4.
6. Do it again, to see if it can be duplicated by other researchers.
 7. Write and publish your results (to a select few at first).
 8. Other researchers can then see if they get the same result as you.



The vast majority of amateur sasquatch researchers do almost none of the research in the previous steps. Some go in the woods, hear noises, and report that sasquatches were all around them throughout the night. While this may make for exciting stories for friends and family, it does little to further knowledge of the species.

I would like to encourage all prospective sasquatch researchers to design experiments and execute them

in the field. It's not as hard as one might think to design an experiment. One experiment I have done is with stuffed animals, but it is extremely difficult to get meaningful positive results. What I mean by a positive result is you being sure, or at least reasonably sure through some supporting evidence, that sasquatches were involved. My stuffed animal experiment has led to missing items to be later found some distance from the place they were put, up to one mile. There are many animals in the woods, and most of them are not sasquatches. You, the researcher, should take considerable time to find clues as to the identity of creature. Footprints, clear or otherwise, would be a good indicator. Perhaps noises were recorded on your recording device that might help you identify the visitor. Your task is to find supporting



evidence that there was a sasquatch around. Stories will no longer suffice, if you call yourself a researcher. Too many stories, with no collaborating evidence, and people will stop believing you.

This supporting evidence could take years to discover. I have an area of study in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in California, that has produced some very intense nights over six years. Due to the seemingly brazen behavior of the creatures at this area, I hypothesized that I was dealing with more than one juvenile sasquatch. I believe there is a family of sasquatch there, due to finding footprints in various sizes in the area, over the past six years. While I cannot be sure that the animals that surrounded us all the time were sasquatches, there is supporting evidence that sasquatches were possibly around. Items were stolen from camp, and items placed into camp. Furthermore, the possible footprints were of the size that suggest juveniles of the species. This is some positive data that would support the hypothesis of the local family groups, as well as my hunch that this could be one of those safe locations. It took me years of walking and exploring on the ground to find this area.



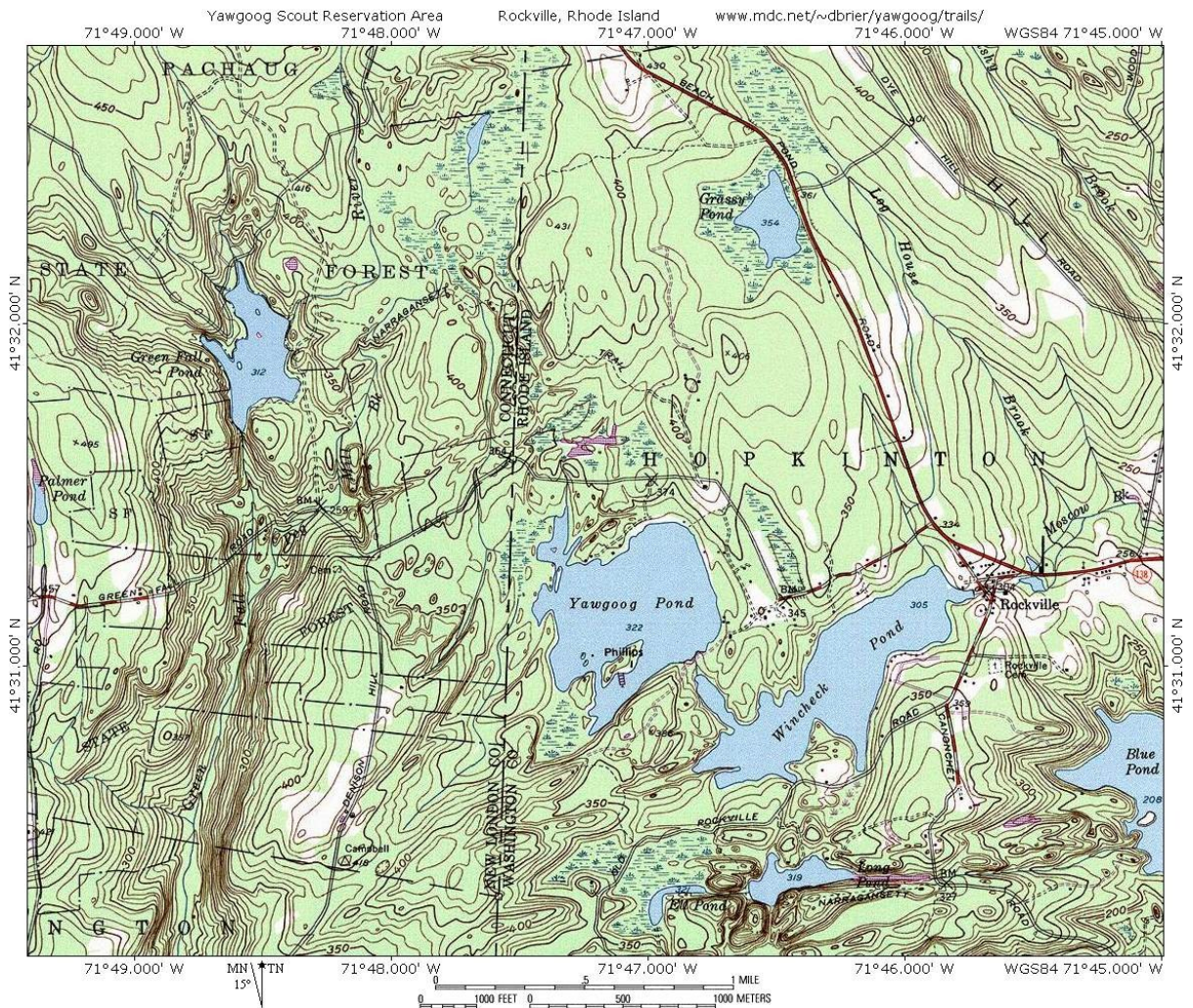
Footprint casts, sound recordings, photographs and videos are not the only form of potential data gathered by researchers. Field observations are an important form of data that anyone can collect. The notes can be in the form of a casual diary. Some important information that should be noted include date, time, location (GPS coordinates whenever possible), temperature, weather conditions, and the names of everyone present. If you get lucky and have something happen such as a vocalization, wood knocks, camp visitation, or even a sighting, even more information should be gathered.

Be familiar with your area

The best study area is the one near where you live. Most people who fancy

themselves amateur sasquatch investigators live near a place that has produced sightings at one time or another. It is more fruitful to visit an area often, than to spend a week at a location once a year. By frequently visiting the same location, one becomes familiar with the yearly cycles of that area. Animals, including sasquatches, will be in the area when there's a reason for them to be there, and the number one reason any animal is anywhere is the presence of food. Being familiar with an area means knowing when the berries are ripe, and when the deer herds are present, etc. Basically, this will tell you, when and where food is in the area, and how the inhabitants might exploit these resources?

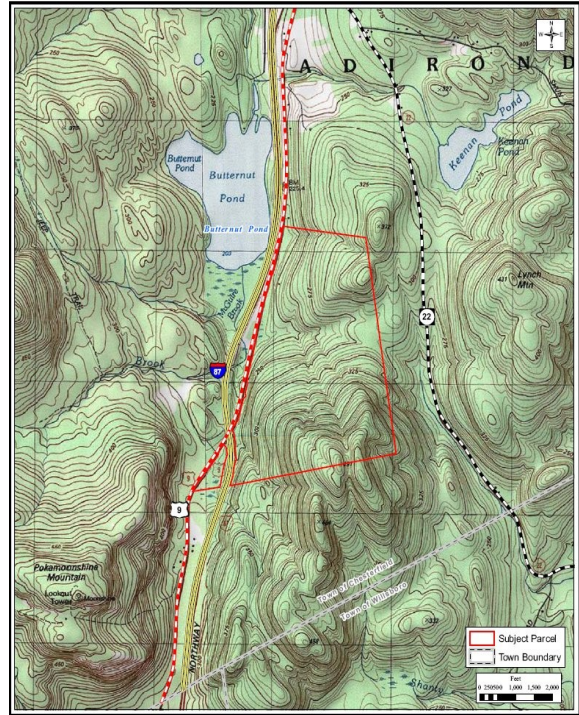
By frequent visits to an area, one starts to get a feel for the topography as well. How do animals make their way from one valley to the next? Where are the



saddles which provide the easiest routes. Where are there lakes, springs, or

ponds near these saddles where an animal can get refreshed after a long upward climb? Where are there pockets of cover with no road access? There are hundreds of questions to answer if one starts becoming familiar with an area.

In your choice of a research area, you should have every available tool to help you learn the area. You should have every map, of all sorts. Both new and old maps, as they will have different information. Good high- definition topo maps and satellite photos of the area, then you need to drive every road that is legal to drive and walk down every road, fire lane and all valleys and ridges, walk as much of the ground as you can, and re-walk it as much as possible, the only true way of learning the area is by walking and seeing it in front of you, and walk it at different times of the seasons. You need to learn the local food sources and water sources, when the food is in what area and how much of it is there. It does no good to stay in an area if there is no food or water. It's best to find the permanent water sources as well. A wise master woodsman that taught me how hunt and survive in the wilderness, and he told me ONE thing to never forget, "Find the water, food and shelter, and you will find what you seek." I have found this to be true, no matter what I have hunted for, in any part of the world.



Bigfoot and Politics

Over my years of sasquatching, I have found that one of the largest obstacles to good research is the political climate found among amateur sasquatchers. Many supposed enthusiasts try to look scientific by shooting down other's efforts at bringing in data. They do this under the guise of peer review, but they do little or nothing to recreate the experiments, preferring to remain safely behind their

computer, never to have seen a sasquatch, because they are sitting at home. Other researchers jealously guard their information, thinking it has value only to them. I take the position that having data that isn't shared is functionally the same as not having any data at all. Of course, witness information should be protected, and certainly locations you are currently working seem fair enough to keep off of everyone's radars, but what happens there, might be of use in other areas. One can publish information without compromising locations or the people involved, and this is generally respected by the community. I would suggest that your data should be shared with close friends in the sasquatch community, and if you find something really good, contact a scientist through one of several excellent researchers, groups, or organizations, and share the data with him/her. The gossip and cult of personalities that have permeated the sasquatch community, has effectively driven off some experienced researchers. I would encourage would-be amateur sasquatch researchers, to keep a low profile.

The new researcher should learn the ethics that exist within the Bigfoot community regarding witnesses, sharing of information, how to deal with other researchers who are difficult, how to identify hoax footprints or recognize known hoaxers by name or reputation.

Attempting a Bigfoot hoax and getting caught is a loss of all credibility to any researcher in the community. There are sufficient resources within the community to examine evidence if it's believed to be hoaxed and all you have to do is reach out and ask.

An excellent source of information on the Bigfoot community and how it works can be found at one of the several conferences and seminars held in the US each year. The largest and best known one is the annual October conference held by the Texas Bigfoot Research Conservancy (TBRC).

Persevere

Amateur sasquatch research is a daunting task. This is after spending a considerable amount of time learning about the subject through books and other resources. I have spent literally hundreds of nights in the woods. Many of them alone, and without a fire, listening to the sounds of the night. To this day, I have relatively little to show for it. I have a few footprint photographs, some sound recordings, and some good stories. Some of my friends think I'm weird, my

family thinks that I'm eccentric, and most of my casual acquaintances think I'm stupid for wasting my time.

There is little difference between a camper and a sasquatcher, except that a sasquatcher is prepared for what might happen. Considering the army of camping enthusiasts in the United States, we could

have a considerable number of amateur sasquatch researchers out every weekend, if only people would take the effort to equip themselves with the gear and knowledge necessary to bring back data instead of stories. I want to encourage you to be one of them.



Don't give up because you don't find any evidence. Don't give up because you don't see one, or record vocalizations the first dozen or more times, when you spend the night in a promising area. Don't give up because you get frustrated. Be stubborn. Be a sasquatch researcher. Persevere. Maybe you'll be the one to clearly film one.

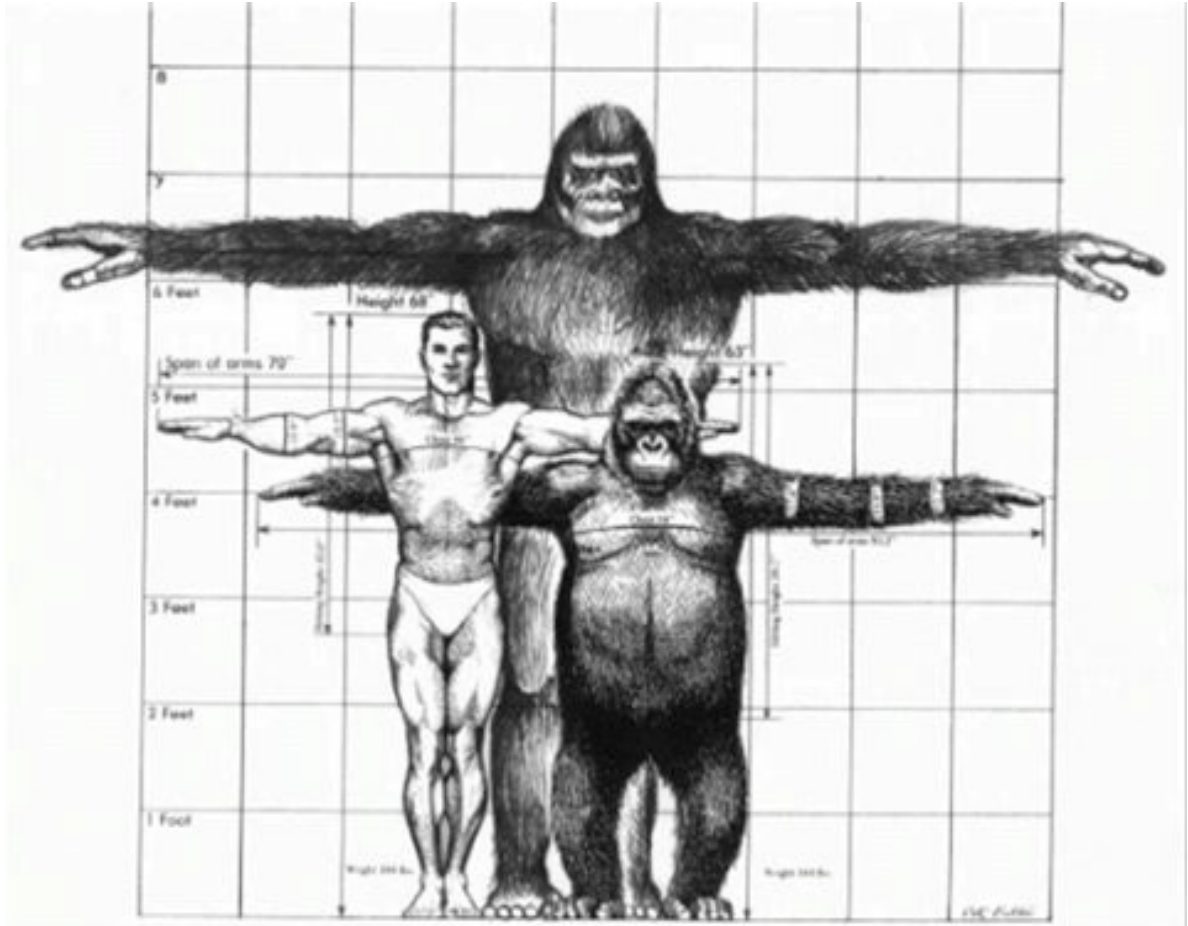
The reader should realize that every time they drive the highways and roads in a rural area or just outside an urban area, they go freshwater fishing, hunting, camping, visiting a national park, traveling by train or bus and going for a walk in any area except the heart of a large urban area you can encounter the Sasquatch species.

The Internet has numerous websites that contain listings of Bigfoot encounters in North America and a great many of the reports come from average Americans going about their lives and suddenly to their surprise they find or see clear evidence of the existence of the species. These reports run the gamut from people seeing a face peering in their window to people in planes seeing something that shouldn't exist on the terrain below them. We suggest

you join us in trying to find an answer to one of the great continuing mysteries of the 20th century.

Just don't give up.

Written by Woodrat with the help of my fellow researchers, I thank them for their insight and help.



All graphics have been collected over the years, or have been sent to me, if a graphic is yours please e-mail and I will remove it or put a reference to you if you desire it.

If you paid for this book, get your money back. This book has been released to the public as a gift from the Sasquatch Searchers as a reference material, so please pass it along to your fellow squatching friends.