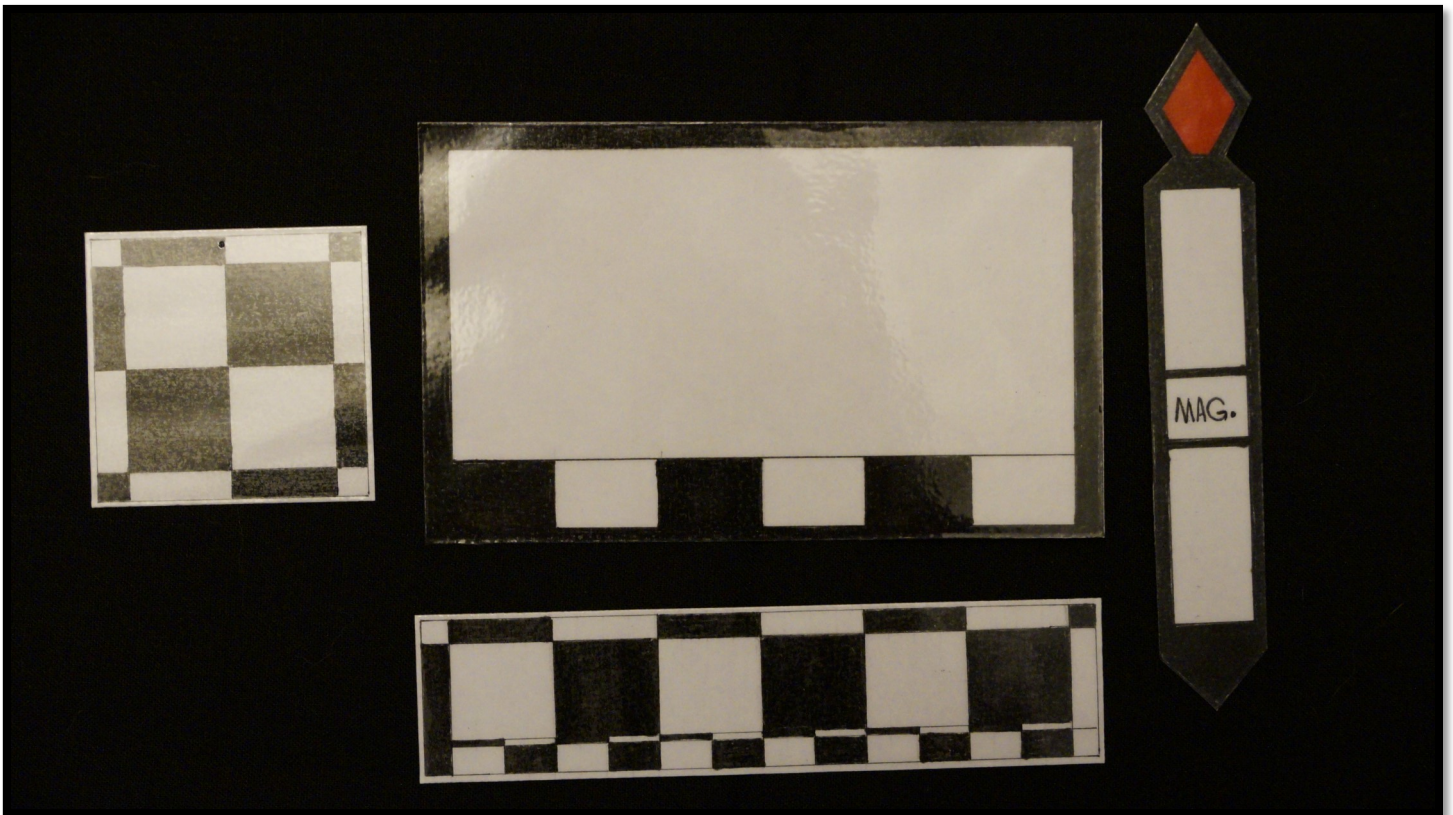


Photographic Scales for Sasquatch Research

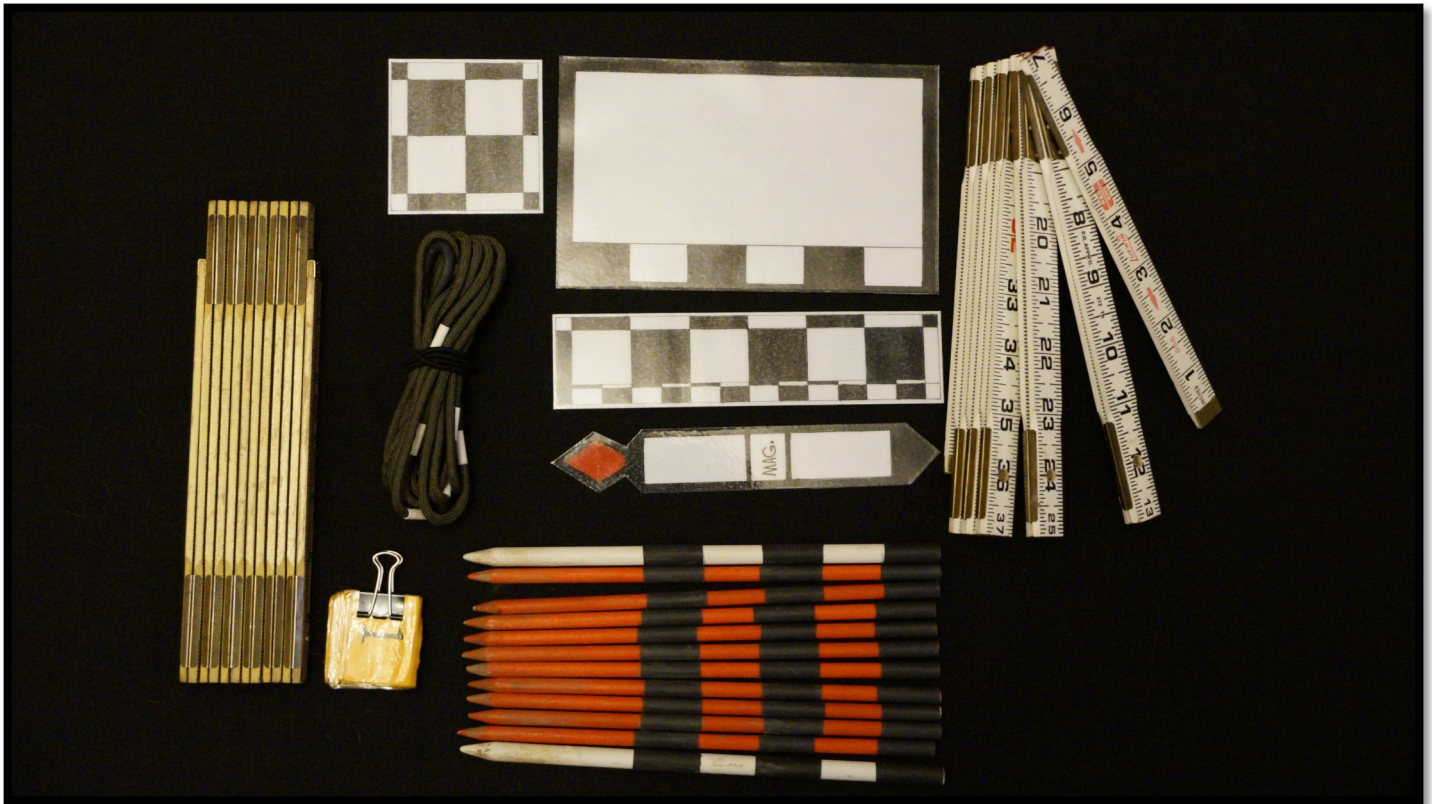
Accuracy and consistency are important in documenting physical evidence. This is particularly true in photographing evidence, especially tracks and other impressions. Commercially produced photographic scales are typically too small with complicated markings intended to cover a wide range of uses to make them very useful for Sasquatch research. Field expedients such as a photograph of your boot or laying a knife beside a track are useless as no one knows how big your foot is or the measurements of your knife. *(Especially in future years when you may be gone and other researchers need to use your information.)* Steel tape measures or folding wooden stick rulers are a better means to accomplish this but depending on what type of camera you are using the measurements can be hard to interpret later. After about six years of trial and error I have come up with a set of tools



From left to right, 2X2 inch square, 4X6 inch rectangle for dry erase notes, directional pointer with space for azimuth and back azimuth in dry erase, and a 6 inch ruler for general purposes. The dry erase marker erases well with just a wipe, if it gets too dirty camera lens wipes or lens cleaner will remove it.

that is lightweight and adaptable as well as easy to use.

I carry two seventy-two inch stick rules for most measuring purposes, a twenty-five foot long piece of parachute line marked in twelve and six inch



Scales with stick rules, cord and marker sticks. The marker sticks are seven inches long and are used to mark individual tracks in a track-way the white ones are used to denote the beginning and end of a track-way. The yellow things with the glare on them are small numbered tabs that have slots to fit over the marker sticks for visual clarity in photographs. they also make it easier to visualize a track-way on the ground.

increments with electrical shrink tube and a loop at the end for longer measurements as well as use as a tool for locating faint track-ways, and a selection of photographic scales.

The photo scales were drawn on quarter inch grid paper and then copies were made to get rid of the blue grid lines. The scales were sized to fit on a eight and a half by eleven sheet of paper and then laminated to weather proof them a bit. After laminating them they were cut out using a razor knife and a steel ruler. The scales are sized to slide into the cover of my eight by five inch field notebook for convenience. The four by six card and the directional indicator can be written on with a dry erase markers to record written



A track in heavy leaf cover, the stick rule is bent at a right angle in front of the toes and the sliding piece on the end is at the heel. Note the marker showing azimuth and back azimuth. The placard at the front has general information about the track and track-way. More detailed information is recorded in my field book. The marker sticks are placed at either end of the track to mark the position in the track-way. The slider on the stick rule is an older method and can be replaced with anything straight.



Marker sticks showing a four track spread, the white spot in the center is the track illustrated above.

information in photographs. Stick pins can be used to affix the scales to trees or on the ground in windy conditions.

My way of documenting tracks is to gather as much information as possible to try to figure out patterns of movement and behavior. I generally do not document single tracks other than a photograph and measurements unless there is something unusual or particularly clear about the track. Trackways, even short ones can give much more information and these I document thoroughly. The same set of tools mentioned above can be adapted to varying situations such as documenting sitting or laying



2X2 marker pinned to a tree as a size reference for the impact wound on the tree, placard above records information.



Same thing with the six inch rule

impressions on the ground or vertical evidence like hand polish marks on trees.

Included below is my sheet of photo scales that can be printed for use. I recommend printing them on card stock and be sure to use smooth finish laminating film

so that dry erase marker will clean off well. It would also be wise to check the scaling before you print to be sure of sizes. All measurements are to the inside of the scale with a quarter inch border.

