

**Subject:** Butler Cave: The Good Way to the Candle Room

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Butler Cave: The Good Way to the Candle Room.

Hope Brooks, Eric Pelkey, Kathleen Kerrigan, and Tony Canike, reporting.

We entered Butler Cave at 1130 with Mark Hodge and Mark Minton. The Marks wanted to check out Last Hope Siphon, the Fred L. Wefer Memorial Highway, and Last Hope Shaft. That sounded interesting to us, so we traveled together quickly to the July 6th Room and made our way to Last Hope Siphon via Dave's Lake. Details of this part of the trip are in Mark Hodge's trip report.

Our other objectives were:

1. Fix the missing vertical control from the Christmas Passage to the top of the Good Way climbdown to the Candle Room.
2. BL-29: Survey down the Good Way and connect to the lower level survey, and close a large loop in the cave.
3. BL-33 Check out a high-level lead reported by Nate Walter near the top of the Good Way.
4. Familiarize ourselves with the Downstream Loop in preparation for leading trips on the 11/14/2015 VPI Cave Club weekend.
5. Test out a new "Chameleon" cave suit made by Salamander Caving Gear (Mary Rose), which is based in California.
6. Test in-cave digital surveying with a DISTOX2 and a 7" android tablet running TopoDroid.
7. Continue testing the Texas Clown Shoes (Para Boot by Hi Tec in the UK).
8. And ditch the slave flashes and take cave photos with multiple ZebraLights.

Links and Maps of the leads are available in the usual place, the Butler Cave Lead List.

<http://butlercave.org/butlercavesurvey/butlersurveysplanned.html#BL-29>

<http://butlercave.org/butlercavesurvey/butlersurveysplanned.html#BL-33>

Summary Outcomes:

1. We surveyed 320.8 feet in 10 shots from the Christmas Passage to the top of the Good Way, correcting the lack of vertical control in the survey in this passage.
2. We previewed but did not survey the climb down the Good Way, but we were chilled from surveying after getting soaking wet in the Last Hope Shaft.
3. Eric crawled down a passage for a couple hundred feet that started out trending 238 deg magnetic from the top of the Good Way (left as you approach the Good Way.) This was not on the map nor in the survey data. Also, there are other leads to check out and survey in this area.
4. We had a nice tour of the loop. We found some floating biologics that we photographed for Jenn Macalady.
5. The Chameleon cave suit was great for the romp down the main trunk passage. The soft-shell-like fabric was very breathable, and the retractable sleeves let me dump heat quickly. The flap covering the main zipper didn't have enough velcro to stay put in muddy crawls, ditto for the

sleeve and leg cuff adjusting tabs. I was hoping the lightweight fabric would dry quickly, but it dried about as much the nylon suits worn by the others.

6. The transfer of the data from the DistoX2 to TopoDroid on the Android tablet was painless. Using the TopoDroid for the passage sketching will require more practice. I used a flat tablet case made by Pelican to transport the tablet, and I used a waterproof tablet protector (heavy PVC pouch) with a lanyard to hang it around my neck and protect it while sketching.

7. The Hi Tec Paraboots worked great, with excellent traction on muddy slopes and rocks.

8. Yup, skip the slave flashes for impromptu action shots; a handful of Zebralights worked nicely. Anyone want some cheap flashes?

#### Remaining Work:

1. Survey down the Good Way to the Candle Room & tie in.
2. Push and survey leads near the top of the Good Way.
3. Explore the Candle Room.

#### Report:

After we all got pretty soaked and cold working in the Last Hope Shaft, we split up; Mark and Mark headed out while we headed towards our original objectives.

Kathleen, Hope, Eric, and I made our way westward, got turned around for a few moments in the area of the Hanging Rock Room, and then picked up Slippery Creek. At one point, we came across a pool with floaters in it that appeared to be biologic, so we took a few photos. There were eddy currents in the pool and the floaters were moving a bit, so I don't think they were calcite rafts.

We started moving again, and found the entrance to the Frothing Slosh passage. It wasn't bad, a little reminiscent of CRCS but it was quickly over after a couple maneuvers that seemed trickier than anything in Strychnine Canyon in Blarneystone, but the spots were easy on the way out, so I probably just needed to figure them out.

And then we were in the SW end of the Christmas Passage. Nice big rooms. We yard sale'd our gear out on big dirt-covered breakdown blocks, took photos, and ate lunch. Hope readied the survey book while I setup to sketch with TopoDroid, Kathleen prepared to set stations, and Eric fired up the DistoX2. Hope named today's survey "Paul's Bulbous Ass" because he was showing off his impressive glutes around the campfire Friday evening. We tied into an existing station DS\_3 on top of a huge breakdown block, and Kathleen set our first station. Eric took a three repeated shots to the station, and the data transferred to the tablet and plotted on the screen. He took numerous splays to demarcate the cross-section and they plotted, and TopoDroid distinguished the splays from the traverse leg. Drawing cross-sections was a matter of "connecting the dots" from the splays. I read the numeric data off the tablet to Hope, who took book in the normal way, while Eric and Kathleen sorted out the next stations. Eric quickly got good at shooting splays to locate ceiling channels, side leads, corners, ledges, etc. TopoDroid displays the traverse and splay shots in plan, profile, and cross-section views, and I did my best to sketch to all of those. My TopoDroid sketching definitely wasn't final map or working map quality, but it was fun and easy. Do need more practice.

Finally we had surveyed to the top of the Good Way climbdown. We were still soaked and cold, so we called it a day and didn't do the climb down. Eric found what appears to be a not-too-hard way down, but we would have definitely rigged the 60' of 9mm we had as a handline. Next time.

We retraced our steps, ate some more, packed up our flea market, and headed out. Frothing Slosh wasn't bad going out, especially since Hope was ahead of me and reached back to give my pack a yank at a couple key spots. Then we were back to the loop at the Slippery Creek passage. We headed out directly towards the Pool Room and at the beginning of the belly crawl on flat slabby breakdown we found a live frog sitting on the rock. The crawl was bone dry, so we picked a good time of year to do this trip. Maret's Madness was dry too. We tethered our packs around our ankles and crawled through the Pants Off Crawl, which was also dry, untethering for a moment to execute one maneuver in the middle. Before we knew it, we were at little downclimb to the Pool Room.

We motored out, stopping at the soda straws to well, share a Coke I stashed on the way in. When we passed the Moon Room passage, we took a trip up to it, and then we headed out. When we exited the cave at 2130, we found that Paul had started the shower hot water fire and had the hot tub going, which got us excited. We quickly cooked dinner and ate it around the fire ring, and hopped into the hot tub.

—DSC\_5646 Before.jpg

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—CRW\_0028 Hope and a froggy friend.jpg

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—CRW\_0001 Minton and Hodge consulting the map.jpg

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—CRW\_0002 Kathleen and Hope.jpg

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—CRW\_0005 Eric Hope and Kathleen.jpg

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—CRW\_0009 Tony getting some water.jpg

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—CRW\_0012 Kathleen.jpg

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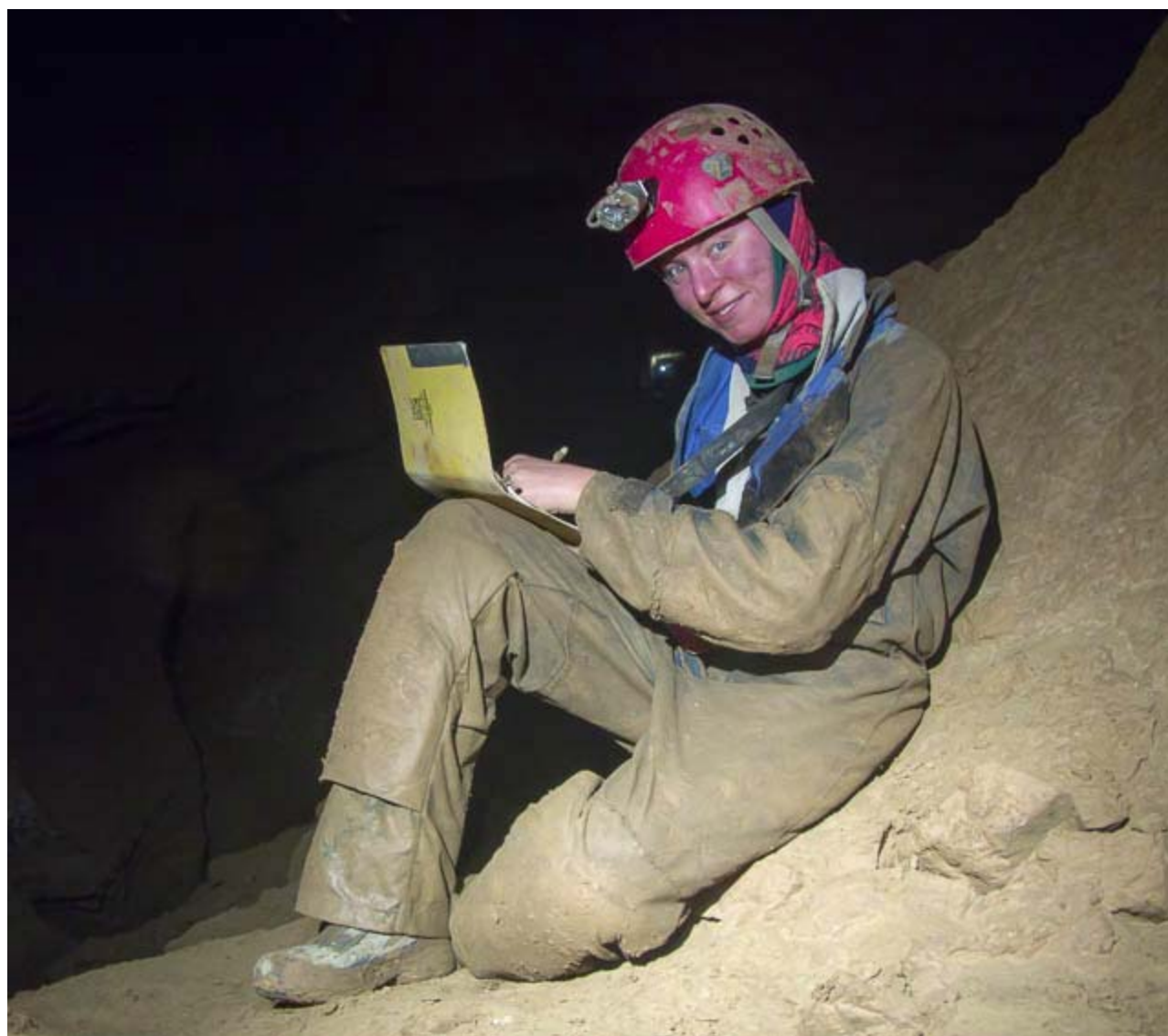
—CRW\_0015 Floating things.jpg—

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—CRW\_0023 Hope sketching.jpg

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Attachments:

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DSC_5646 Before.jpg	159 KB
CRW_0028 Hope and a froggy friend.jpg	77.8 KB
CRW_0001 Minton and Hodge consulting the map.jpg	114 KB
CRW_0002 Kathleen and Hope.jpg	112 KB
CRW_0005 Eric Hope and Kathleen.jpg	96.9 KB
CRW_0009 Tony getting some water.jpg	104 KB
CRW_0012 Kathleen.jpg	107 KB
CRW_0015 Floating things.jpg	89.0 KB
CRW_0023 Hope sketching.jpg	86.8 KB