

Subject: Butler Cave - 12/13/14 - Idaho's Famous Potatoes Survey

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This report has sat completed in my draft box for a week now... Here ya go!

Butler Cave - Idaho's Famous Potatoes Survey

12/13/2014

Participants: Hope Brooks, Eric Pelkey, Paul Winter(reporting)

Objectives:

- 1.) Resurvey "Idaho" section to confirm/deny the strange non-alignment with other nearby cave. See BL-32*.
- 2.) Survey areas previously unsurveyed to clean up the area and add length to Butler.
- 3.) If time allowed, investigate/survey the unsurveyed connection to the Candle Room. See BL-29*
- 4.) Is Idaho really crooked? Campfire discussions must have a conclusion on this!!!

*References the Butler Lead List on the website. Fantastic resource that I wish all caves had!

Thanks Tony!

Outcomes:

- 1.) We resurveyed from an obvious tie in up into Idaho. We tied in to a few old stations and added a number of our own.
- 2.) We surveyed surveyed over 500' of passage, some of it already included in Butler's length, but as there was no vertical control in the old survey, this new survey trumps.
- 3.) Eric took a look, but after a quick search, the way on was not obvious. Also, there are hundreds of feet of unsurveyed passage in the area.
- 4.) Idaho is not crooked, the data was off! How's about that!?

Station Designation: IFP

Stations Set: 21

Total Survey: 524.9 feet.

Leads Remaining: IFP15(breakdown looks passable), IFP16(two scary breakdown leads to check), IFP21(high fissure)

Detailed Report

Hope, Eric, and I were milling around the Homestead Saturday morning and decided to do a trip to Idaho, to see if it really was crooked, or if the map was a bit off of reality. I took Amanda Labrado over to the Roost so she could work on important grad student activities, then returned to suit up. We entered not long after Bryan "Crow" Crowell and Ariel Haziot had entered, bound for Rat's Doom Siphon.

We met up with them somewhere near the Moon Room turn off. We proceeded on at a leisurely

pace, stopping to arm wave about some geology and plan some future rock science trips. We broke off at the Pool Room and headed up towards what the map says is a way to Idaho! Quickly, we came to an interesting climb up, which might be easier with a hand line, then did the Pants Off Crawl. It was all good and dandy. Next came a stream crawl, which I did not expect, so we were happy when the passage opened up near Maret's Madness. We checked a few little side leads, not finding the noted "Hammer and Chisel" lead.

Maret's Madness was a stream! AH, the madness... We opted not to check it until later. Well, of course, the map in my brain was bigger than reality. We came to the way up via the frothing slosh... It was not as big as I imagined. I took the initial low route, which slimed me something fierce, but the other two kept high and dry. We worked our way up stream, doing a few tight stream crawl maneuvers and laughing about how this had some weird CRCS vibes about it. We came out into a larger passage, with the carbide words "Penn State Go" and an arrow. This meant nothing to us. We moved through and finally came to the turn off to Idaho part way up "Vigour Didn't Crawl." There was also a mysterious Greek letter "pi" on the wall, which we took as a secret symbol of unknown importance...

We surveyed in, noting some side passages definitely not on the map. We surveyed these areas and continued into the rest of Idaho, which was generally a pretty linear maze. Some slopes and canyons were encountered, but it was mostly dry. I tried to imagine the Idaho shape of the area, but my sketch didn't quite conform to the old one. Perhaps I need to study up on my state shapes a bit more. We surveyed the main sections, as some of the fringes were shown as already surveyed. Later analyses would indicate that we should have redone the old shots, as they had not vertical control. We made good progress and racked up a fair bit of survey in under 5 hours. Around 6pm, we felt it was time to head out to get to the White Elephant party!

We sloshed downhill through the wet fun and had a good time stomping back upstream! I even did the initial part of Maret's Madness, but where it gets a little bit lower, I decided I didn't want to do an ear dip. What a cave Butler is! Worth noting, there was a single small bat roosting in the "Vigour Didn't Crawl" area. It appeared healthy, though we were simply passing through. Little Brown or Tricolor were the general consensus, though I would say we're rather inexperienced in identification. We exited around 7:30pm to a pile of sleepy cavers on the Homestead Couch.

Future Trips:

There are a few leads to check quickly in this area as well as two or 3 passages worth resurveying to get vertical control and the length added. It's pleasant cave in Idaho, so it'd be an easy task. The connection area to the Candle Room has some more survey to do, so it'd be a fun survey trip to this area of the cave. I think Hope Brooks and Eric Pelkey have it in their sights, so I don't anticipate very many years before a return trip ^_~

Let there be dark,

~Paul Winter