

Butler Dave - 31 August 1975

Ron Miller, Lewis Holtzendorff, Court Smith, Sheck Exley, John Wilson, Champe Burnley, et al.

The purpose of this trip was to dive Last Hope siphon. This is no easy task since all of the equipment must be hauled by coolies 2 miles into the cave and down 560 ft. below the entrance. That's only half of the trip; it's all uphill on the way out. I did not participate in this trip other than to help at the entrance since I had sprained my ankle in Aqua the day before.

Champe Burnley led the group which carried most of the equipment to the Moon Room. Ron Miller led the assault group to Last Hope siphon. A decision was made in the cave to carry only one set of diving equipment and a single tank to the siphon. Champe and crew returned to the entrance carrying the excess equipment while the diving crew pushed downstream.

The dive was partially successful in that Sheck penetrated 500 ft. under water. The passage floor was no deeper than 11 ft. below the water surface and the ceiling had a max. depth of 8 ft. The passage was as wide as 10 ft. and 2 1/2 to 3 ft. high. The reason Sheck stopped at 500 ft. is that he ran out of safety cord. NWD

EXPEDITION 13

The thirteenth BCCS expedition was held on September 27, 1975, at the Wallace Farm. Attendance was discouraged by flooding all up and down the east coast, but fourteen hearty souls managed to struggle through the water for more insanity under the earth. The trip reports are listed below.

Above Natural Bridge

Nevin W. Davis, Lynn Carpenter, Peter Cavanagh.

Mapped rimstone pool passage from old station #6 to the end. Sketched Maret's survey from 12 to old 6. Mapped about 330 feet of miserable passage.

Huntley's

5

John Wilson, Ron McCarty, Richard Yoder, Terry Collier, Tom Hubbar.

Photography and sight-seeing.

Huntley's

11

Keith Wheeland, Ron Miller, Harry Sowers. Re-mapped approximately 1500 feet of known passage to get vertical control. Tied into some previous stations. Saw a bat flying around in Huntley's in the big room that has the stream passage below it.

Above Penn State Lake

9.5

Jack Igoe, Maret Maxwell, Bill Redfield. Got the lay of the land above PSL but never did make it to Mbagintao Land, our objective. Pushed a stream crawl left from the base of the "Up" climb for over 50 ft. It has "Delta" survey numbers and keeps on going but according to Nevin it doesn't appear on any of the maps. Followed a side passage from the top of the climb all the way to the end (500 ft.) and found no leads. Near the turnoff to Nevin's new section, Maret dropped down into what appeared to be virgin stream crawl. Might have been the section found by Mike Dyas. Lots of mapping to be done up there still.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual membership meeting of the Society was held on October 25, 1975. Fifteen members were present and five were represented with written proxies. The current officers were unanimously re-elected for another year. Joe Brady and Will White were elected to the Board of Directors.

The Slide Show committee reported progress, requested more slides of some of the other local caves, and indicated high hopes to have a show this year. Jack Stellmack was appointed chairman of a committee to investigate the possibility of placing a permanent ladder in the entrance to Butler. Will White reported of the status of the Bulletin Article and indicated that the sections of hydrology, history, geochemistry and cave fauna are completed. Expedition activity in 1975 totalled 450 caver-hours under ground.