

survey them. It was an unusual trip for me because we got out of the cave while there was still daylight.

KDW

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BETWEEN EXPEDITION 32 AND 33

Bad News Siphon

16 hours

Dive Team: Karen Wark, David Whall, Maret Maxwell  
Support Team: Rich Ganjon, Buddy Jackson, Rod Riley, John Sellers,  
Joe Scevezak  
Photo Team: Nevin W. Davis, Frank Marks

The original dive plan was to carry equipment for two divers to Last Hope Siphon. Both divers would then traverse the first sump and move the gear for one diver to Bad News Siphon. With the addition of Buddy and Rod to the support team, it was agreed that the group was strong. Well, large enough to move equipment for three divers to Dave's Lake. The trip proceeded in good order and moved rapidly through the cave with an occasional pause for some action shots. An unusual apparition was reported by several sober witnesses in the Dry Sumps area. The visitation is said to have resembled Frank Marks carrying a 50 lb. tank. Attempts to confirm this event with the TOPM executive committee met with responses ranging from "No comment" to "Couldn't have been. He's still mapping the Moon Room". And "Frank? We don't know anyone named Frank!". The Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal has been contacted to pursue what many of those present believe to be some form of interaction with the fourth dimension. Presently this close encounter is being attributed to ball lightning.

The dive was staged from the dry side of Dave's Lake where the divers prepared to take the plunge while Seller's Subterranean Luncheonette prepared for its grand opening. Nevin and Joe accompanied the divers to Last Hope Siphon where equipment was donned and final checks made. It was estimated that the diving would require four hours, and it was agreed that failure to return in seven hours meant a rescue call-out.

At last we were ready. Dave went first followed by Karen and myself running the permanent line left by Sheck Exley. There was a heavy accumulation of silt - at least an arm's-length deep. Karen and I could only see the inside of our masks. About 30 feet in, I was greeted by a flipper. I waited with a hand on the flipper so I would know when Karen moved forward. A sudden thrust toward my face indicated that she was backing up. So I retreated and waited. Her hand touched mine on the line and gave the signal to go back. We returned to the surface of the sump.

Apparently the sump had not been flushed since Sheck's dive and it would not be possible to go through wearing a tank. Dave removed his tank and went back with Karen to determine if the restriction was possible to pass. He returned to say it opened up again. We exchanged fins for boots since we were apparently going to crawl - not swim. They we again entered the sump while I waited for ten minutes. If they didn't return,



I was to assume the passage was open and would follow. They didn't, I did.

Welcome to new frontiers in diving technique. My tank is 10 lbs. negative, I am 12 lbs. positive. Together we do OK. Apart, well, the tank goes to the floor and I go to the ceiling. The resulting method of propulsion is dangle and thrash. Wait till the Florida divers hear about this.

Reorganizing in Good News Passage, we decided to check out Bad News before hauling the gear to it, since it might be too silt filled to be possible. The reconnaissance revealed several interesting things.

1) The passage is not anything like that shown on the map. It makes a number of turns.

2) The side fissure passage is actually a solution tube and too small to push into in a wet suit.

3) At some time water flows out of the solution tube into Good News Passage.

4) The water from Last Hope Siphon obviously does not flow into Bad News Siphon. It probably goes beneath the cobble floor at Last Hope Siphon and goes back through the mud at Bad News Siphon.

5) Bad News Siphon is 30 to 40 feet below Last Hope Siphon.

6) Shack Exley doesn't like dry caves. There were arrows pointing the way out drawn in the mud at intervals of two feet.

7) It's not walking passage.

8) It was divable - Oh my aching back!

Returning with the equipment, Dave suited up. No small task in a rather small area. Ceiling height is 3 to 4 feet depending on how far you've sunk into the mud.

And now the bad news about Bad News. It is restricted by silt eighty feet in, and would require tank removal to continue. As previously agreed, Dave did not attempt this on a solo dive. We were already beyond the four hour estimate, so we decided not to survey Good News Passage. It wouldn't be a meaningful activity unless there was another dive. Then it could be done with vertical control. Dave did survey Bad News Siphon, so we know which direction the passage is heading.

We made the return trip and dive and decided to leave the tanks for another recovery trip. Arriving back at Dave's Lake 6.5 hours after we left, we were greeted by "It's about time", and "What the hell have you been doing?". Buddy and Rod had already left (there went the brains of this operation), Nevin had invented a new sport - cave jogging, and everyone had discovered that wet suits make your ass itch.

We loaded up a gear bag for Frank, Nevin, and Rich who immediately left to find a warmer place. The rest of us settled down to a going-out-of-

business sale at the luncheonette before packing up and heading home.

Well, it was certainly no major find - we extended Butler Cave at the blistering pace of 5 feet an hour. The dive did establish several points about the future (?) of diving in Butler.

- 1) The next dive will require different equipment and techniques. Most likely 50 cubic foot tanks worn on side belts. Although 15 cubic foot tanks are a possibility.
- 2) It will require more tanks, and possibly another diver.
- 3) It will require two support teams, one in and one out. We've definitely reached and probably exceeded a reasonable sit time for one group.
- 4) The Society needs to decide what, if any, priority further diving attempts should have.

MM

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### EXPEDITION 33

Expedition 33 was our largest of the year, with 29 cavers in attendance. Our major thrust this time was Beyond the Lake., specifically to correct errors in past surveys and to check leads. The base of the Up Climb can be a very confusing place, as one team found out. They were to survey the Lower Forty, but instead crawled through water and mud for several hours at the base of Ike's Fissure, before realizing they were in the wrong passage.

The Noiaadhibou team had much better luck and surveyed several thousand feet of virgin passage. Other teams were in the July 25th room and the Z Section. We had a total of seventeen cavers beyond the Lake, which must come close to the record. Next year we will be hitting this end of the cave hard, again assuming we can cross the Lake.

Lester Good

#### Z Section - Survey

13 hours

Walter Plunket, Ted Plunket, Bob Thrun, Robbie Nicholson

A copy of our map has checks beside the sections we completed. We did not get to Alphabet Soup. Most areas we mapped were in wet mud. The walls had a shale and mud coating which was crumbly.

WP

#### Lower Forty - Survey

10 hours

Scott Jones, Keith Arnold, Keith Wheeland, Rod Riley

There appeared to be a change in lithology on the lower level directly below station J-15. From this area toward the upper room, the interbedded red 'clay' seams are noted, the crystalline deposits along the nar-