

Sewanee Mountain Cave Fest 2013

CAVE — 'til it — HURTS



Sewanee Mountain Grotto

TAG Caver ~ Volume 4 Issue 3

Fall 2013 – Special Cave Fest Issue

TAG Caver is the official newsletter of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto & is published on a quarterly basis. Sewanee Mountain Grotto is a non-profit internal organization of the National Speleological Society dedicated to the exploration, mapping and conservation of caves. If you are interested in joining the Sewanee Mountain Grotto we invite you to attend one of our monthly grotto meetings. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at various locations in the heart of TAG. A typical meeting starts with a potluck dinner at 6pm CST, followed by the meeting at 7pm. On occasion we also have special presentations following our meetings. Annual dues are \$10 per person and are due in January. Please email sewaneemountaingrotto@caves.org or one of our editors for more information on the location of our next meeting. You may also visit our website at <http://www.caves.org/grotto/sewaneemountaingrotto/>

2012 Sewanee Mtn Grotto Officers:

Chairperson: Kelly Smallwood
Vice Chair & Programs: Woody Woods
Treasurer: Blaine Grindle
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Member at Large: Maureen Handler
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Email articles and photos for submissions to one of our editors. Content may include articles/photos from non members as well as other caving regions. Statements and opinions expressed in the TAG Caver do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto or the NSS.



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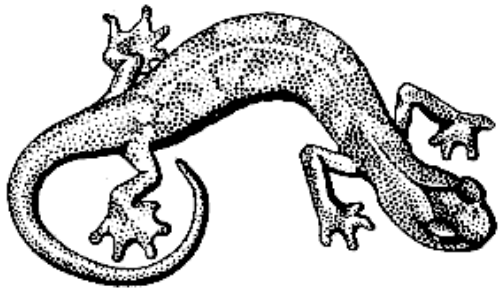
Front Cover:

2013 T Shirt Design by Tina O'Hailey

Back Cover:

SMG Recycling Flyer

Calendar of Upcoming Events



September 28, 2013 – **Tennessee Cave Survey** Fall Business Meeting. 9am, held at Tennessee Tech University, first floor Johnson Hall in Cookeville.

October 10-13, 2013 – **TAG Fall Cave In**, hosted by the Dogwood City Grotto. To register online go to <http://register.tagfallcavein.org/>.

November 9, 2013 – **Sewanee Mountain Grotto Meeting at the Grindle's**. Meeting starts at 6pm central with potluck dinner, followed by

business at 7pm.

December 14, 2013 – **Sewanee Mountain Grotto Meeting at Maureen Handler's**. December is our Holiday Party & Gift Exchange. Meeting starts at 6pm central with potluck dinner, followed by the business at 7pm. Sneaky Santa to follow the meeting, \$10 gift limit.

May 30 – June 1, 2014 – **SERA Summer Cave Carnival**, hosted by the Chattanooga Grotto. Event will be at the new NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama.

July 14-18, 2014 – **NSS Convention**. The event will be at the new NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama.

Connect with the Grotto

If you're new to the Grotto, here are a few ways you can get to know other members:



Join us on a Grotto Trip, Survey Trip or a Cleanup.

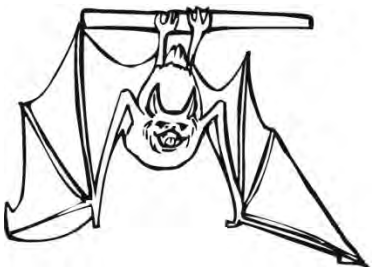
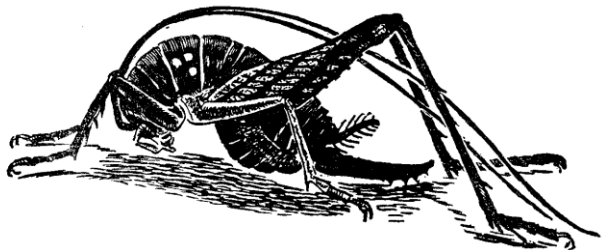


Sewanee Mountain Remailer

After you have joined the grotto, join our mailing list to keep up to date with cave trips and meetings. Go to: http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/sewanee_mountain_grotto and click join. Please provide your real name so we'll know who you are.



Facebook – Join our official unofficial Facebook Page to meet other area cavers and plan trips. Search for Sewanee Mountain Grotto under groups.



Support the Grotto ~ Grotto Merchandise

The Grotto has Baseball Hats for \$15 & 3' patches for \$5. Both items have our grotto logo on them. Please contact Kelly Smallwood at rowland7840@bellsouth.net to purchase.





THE TAG SCOOP

Our current membership is at 90 members.

You can download an updated membership list from the Yahoo group. Membership dues are \$10. You can pay Blaine at a meeting or send them via snail mail. Send check payable to Sewanee Mountain Grotto, 669 Old Sewanee Road, Sewanee, TN 37375. Make sure to include your contact information (name, address, phone #, email address, & NSS #).



CAVE FEST – SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday

All Day – Caving!

Dark 30 – Popcorn & A Movie

“Journey to Amazing Caves”

Sunday

All Day – Caving!

5:30 – Canoe Trip to Nickajack

Cave Bat Flight

Dark 30 – Band “Albert Ogden & The Fanatics”

Saturday

All Day – Caving!

5:00pm – Potluck Dinner

7:00pm – AUCTION



Welcome to Cave Fest

2013 Co-Chairs Anne Grindle & Woody Woods



We are happy to have you join us for this unique caver gathering! Enjoy the many activities available this weekend, but be aware of the usual concerns in southern woods: poison ivy, ticks, and snakes. Please utilize our recycling bins, which are found throughout the campground. Thanks for supporting our annual auction, which funds worthy projects in the TAG area! Anne

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I would like to welcome all of you to the Sewanee Mountain Cave Fest. If you are a repeat guest at Cavers Paradise you already know the vast amount of caves just a walk away from your camp site. If you want vertical we got it nearby, Horizontal we got it nearby also. If this is your first visit to Cavers Paradise we want this to be one of your best caving weekends you ever had. Remember, be safe and always let someone at camp know where you are going and when you plan on being back. After all, we want everyone to have a great time and most of all make it back home safe and sound. Woody



### IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Do not SPEED. Please be mindful when you are driving around the campground as there are kids and dogs at play.
- Keep your campsite free of trash and make sure all food is secure from animals.
- Recycle all glass, plastic (no caps), and aluminum in the bins provided.
- Watch for snakes and spiders around wood piles.

# Coppinger Cove, Marion County, Tennessee

Coppinger Cove has long been popular with extreme 4x4's and four wheelers. There are a handful of caves in the cove but access can be somewhat difficult unless you have a monster truck in your garage. For cavers, the easiest way to access the cove is on foot. A hike in from the bottom of the cove each way as far back as Ship Cave is approximately three miles. Plan accordingly and take extra water for your long hike. One of the prettiest things about the cove is the Little Sequatchie River, which you will hike along the majority of the way. There are several stream crossings so you should also be prepared to get wet on your hike.

To access Coppinger Cove, head north on Hwy 41 / SR 150 from the courthouse in downtown Jasper. When Hwy 41 splits off to the left towards Tracy City, continue around to the right following Valley View Hwy (Old TN 28). After going thru the small town of Sequatchie and passing the Owen Springs Park, look for Coppinger Cove Road on the left (you will see a sign here for the Trails Training Center). Follow this road all the way back until you reach the Sequatchie Cove Farm. You will see their creamery on the right and the main house off to the left. You will need to ask for permission to park at the farm. To access the caves, continue following the main road on foot a short distance until you reach the river. You can chose to go ahead and get wet here and follow the road or if you look to your left you will see a smaller foot trail that goes to the left of the river. You will eventually have to get wet in a later stream crossing so now is a good time as any since following the main road is an easier trail.

## SHIP CAVE MN39

Entrance 1 Elevation 775ft      Length of cave: 3338'      Depth of Cave: 125'      Geology: Bangor Limestone  
Entrance 2 Elevation 770ft

Ship Cave has two known entrances, which open 30 feet apart at the bottom of a limestone bluff. The larger of the two is 25 feet wide and 10 feet high. The cave stream emerges from the mouth and flows into Little Sequatchie River.

Ship Cave trends N. 30 degrees W. with a few short turns along a joint set that strikes S. 50 degrees W. The cave is 2600 feet in length. Above the level of stream on the west side of the cave are several huge breakdown chambers. The largest of these rooms finally blocks further exploration a half mile from the mouth. This terminal room is 50 to 100 feet wide, as much as 60 feet high, and 600 feet long. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) were observed in the cave. (Barr, 1961)



## PIRATE CAVE MN70

Entrance 1 Elevation 780ft      Length of cave: 400'      Depth of cave: 20'      Geology: Bangor Limestone  
Entrance 2 Elevation 780ft  
Entrance 3 Elevation 780ft

Pirate Cave is located 75 feet east of Ship Cave (MN39) (labeled on the topo map), at the foot of Low Gap Point and at the junction of Indian Cove and Coppinger Cove. The 10-foot wide, 2-foot high entrance opens into walking passage. The passage goes 400 feet as walking and stooping passage. The cave ends in breakdown with a very strong air current. (Gerald Moni, 1979)

## NIAGARA WELL MN185

Entrance Elevation 1000ft      Length of cave: 3000'      Depth of cave: 150'      Geology: Bangor Limestone



Located 3300 feet south and slightly west of Ship Cave (MN39) on the west slope of Coppinger Cove. To reach the cave, drive the 4WD road going north into Coppinger Cove until you reach the river ford which is marked on the topo. Park and walk 175 feet up the mountain to a bench. Walk north on the bench and cross several small streams. After 1500 feet you will find a flowing stream which sinks into Upper Niagara Cave (MN186). Niagara Well is directly below this cave in a large sink.

The sink is 100 feet long by 50 feet wide. The resurgence of Upper Niagara Cave enters the sink from a bluff at

the high side. By rigging the waterfall directly, an essentially free but wet 132-foot drop can be done into the sinkhole.

The downslope (east) end of the sink is collapsed such that you can climb down into the sink. A 40-foot high, 5-foot wide canyon passage slopes down 50 feet into a walking stream passage. The passage goes 300 feet downstream into a large breakdown room 50 feet high. There was a lot of airflow, but we were unable to push past the breakdown room.

Going upstream the water is up to 2.5 feet deep. The passage is mainly walking and stooping for 600 feet to a junction with the borehole passage. Both the right and left passages are upstream passages. The right passage goes 1500 feet as a high and wide canyon with massive breakdown slabs. This passage is up to 75 feet wide and over 100 feet high. Near the end is a series of climbups on large breakdown slabs that goes up for over 100 feet vertically. The stream passage flows between the breakdown at the bottom. This passage contains recrystallized calcite and slickensides which indicate that a fault formed the passage.

The left passage goes 700 feet mainly as a walking passage with a few short side passages. This passage ends at a 50-foot dome. (Mark Lassiter, 1977; Gerald Moni, 1983 & 2001)

#### **BLEEDING CAVE MN184**

|                          |                      |                   |                           |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Entrance Elevation 960ft | Length of Cave: 300' | Depth of Cave 25' | Geology: Bangor Limestone |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|

To find the cave, drive up into Coppinger Cove headed north. A stream flowing west to east intersects the Little Sequatchie River between points marked on the topo as BMHNC39 719 and MLB173 755. Go up this stream to the Pennington bench and walk north on the bench. The first stream crossed sinks into Bleeding Cave.

The cave has a 10-foot-wide chimney entrance that leads to 300 feet of walking passage 20 feet wide and 10 to 20 feet high. Several other streams are present in the cave, and they all converge at the bottom and sink into large gravel. A crawl at this point was too tight for hope. A lot of moonshine equipment was present in the cave. (Mark Lassiter, 1977)

#### **MANDYS CAVE MN132**

|                          |                       |                    |                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Entrance Elevation 850ft | Length of Cave: 1500' | Depth of Cave: 50' | Geology: Bangor Limestone |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|

Mandy's Cave is located in Little Sequatchie Cove, 1600 feet upstream of the intersection of the Little Sequatchie River and Grays Creek. The cave entrance is a large opening (100 feet wide and 65 feet high) in a rock bluff. A small stream flows into a small vertical hole at the cave's mouth. The cave heads in an easterly direction, dropping slowly in elevation. The ceiling becomes progressively lower as the cave is penetrated. Flood debris was noticed at extreme heights within the cave. Due to its location it appears to drain the surrounding area at times of floods and high rains, so it may be dangerous at times of wet weather. The cave was not fully explored and poses good possibilities. (Andrew Avec, 1975)

#### **RAINBOW CAVE MN120**

|                            |                      |                    |                           |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Entrance Elevation 960ft   | Length of Cave: 640' | Depth of Cave: 40' | Geology: Bangor Limestone |
| Entrance 2 Elevation 960ft |                      |                    |                           |
| Entrance 3 Elevation 920ft |                      |                    |                           |

Rainbow Cave is 1000 feet southwest of "The Pocket" Community on the north side of Pocket Creek Cove (a northeast tributary of the Little Sequatchie River in Little Sequatchie Cove). It is 5000 feet northeast of the Little Sequatchie River and 400 feet northwest of the junction of Bee Branch and Pocket Creek, right beside a dirt road.

The entrance is an impressive sink 100 feet wide and 30 feet high at the back. A waterfall cascades over the 30-foot drop into the cave. The water siphons to the left of the entrance. Another opening to the right leads to 150 feet of passage. Two streams pour in through breakdown. A narrow, sinuous was followed for 50 feet and got too tight. The cave is mostly collapse and breakdown. The ceiling is low, 4 to 5 feet high. (Jeff Sims, 1975)

### BUTTERFLY CAVE MN160

Entrance Elevation 800ft      Length of Cave: 4420'      Depth of Cave: 50'      Geology: Bangor Limestone  
Entrance 2, 3, & 4 Elevation 800ft

Drive north up Coppinger Cove to Pocket Creek Cove. The cave is on the north side of the road, near the mouth of the cove. The road crosses the creek at the cave. Butterfly Cave is a maze-type cave with 4 entrances. The lower passages are major stream passage, and the upper levels are overflow passage and solution-maze type, with no formations. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) inhabit the cave stream. (Gerald Moni, 1977)

### UPPER NIAGARA CAVE MN186

Entrance 1 Elevation 1050ft      Length of Cave: 350'      Depth of Cave: 30'      Geology: Pennington Formation  
Entrance 2 Elevation 1050ft  
Entrance 3 Elevation 1020ft

Located 3300 feet south and slightly west of Ship Cave (MN39) on the west slope of Coppinger Cove. Drive the 4WD road going north into Coppinger Cove until you reach the river ford which is marked on the topo. Park and walk 175 feet up the mountain to a bench. Walk north on the bench and cross several streams. After 1500 feet you will find a flowing stream which sinks into an upper entrance (E2). The main entrance (E1) is 15 feet downstream in a sink. Niagara Well (MN185) is directly below this cave in a large sink.

The wet-weather stream entrance (E2) is 7 feet high and 2 feet wide and swallows a stream resurging off the bench. This entrance is an 8-foot climbdown. Just downstream in the creekbed is the main entrance (E1) located in a sinkhole. This entrance is 7 feet high and 3 feet wide. Both entrances lead into a room 40 feet wide, 60 feet long and 20 feet high. A 150-foot long passage with a floor joint that contains the stream goes to a junction. To the right the passage goes 150 feet to a small dome complex. To the left is the stream route that goes to another junction. Straight ahead is a short crawlway that leads to some nice formations. To the right goes to E3 which is 4 feet wide and 2 feet high. This entrance resurges at Niagara Well (a 132-foot-deep sink) and is a couple of feet above the spring which falls into Niagara Well. (Mark Lassiter, 1977; Gerald Moni, 1983 & 2001)

### WINE CAVE MN141

Entrance Elevation 690ft      Length of Cave: 2500'      Depth of Cave: 56'      Geology: Bangor Limestone

Located on the west side of Little Sequatchie Valley, just north of the mouth of Dixon Cove, and 1500 feet north of Coppinger Chapel (BM42 DY). The entrance is just above the spring marked on the topo map.

Wine Cave had been mapped for a length of 1679 feet in 1977. About 135 feet inside the entrance, after going over a breakdown pile, there is a 12-foot waterfall labeled on the map. Sometime, the owner or someone, brought in a ladder and built a tiny dam in the crawl passage at the top of this 12-foot waterfall. A pipe led from the dam to the entrance.

Past the dam there was 750 feet of crawls explored. The passage consisted of 400 feet of crawl/stoop to a constriction 50 feet past a 25-foot flowstone dome. Then 100 feet farther and up into impenetrable breakdown to the end. Off to the left (going in) of the 400-foot passage are 250-foot, 80-foot, 20-foot (from 25-foot dome) left side passages. The new length of the cave is 2500 feet. (Marion O. Smith, 1993). Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) were observed in the cave stream.

### CHEESE CAVE MN203

Entrance Elevation 710ft      Length of Cave: 60'      Depth of Cave: 4'      Geology: Bangor Limestone

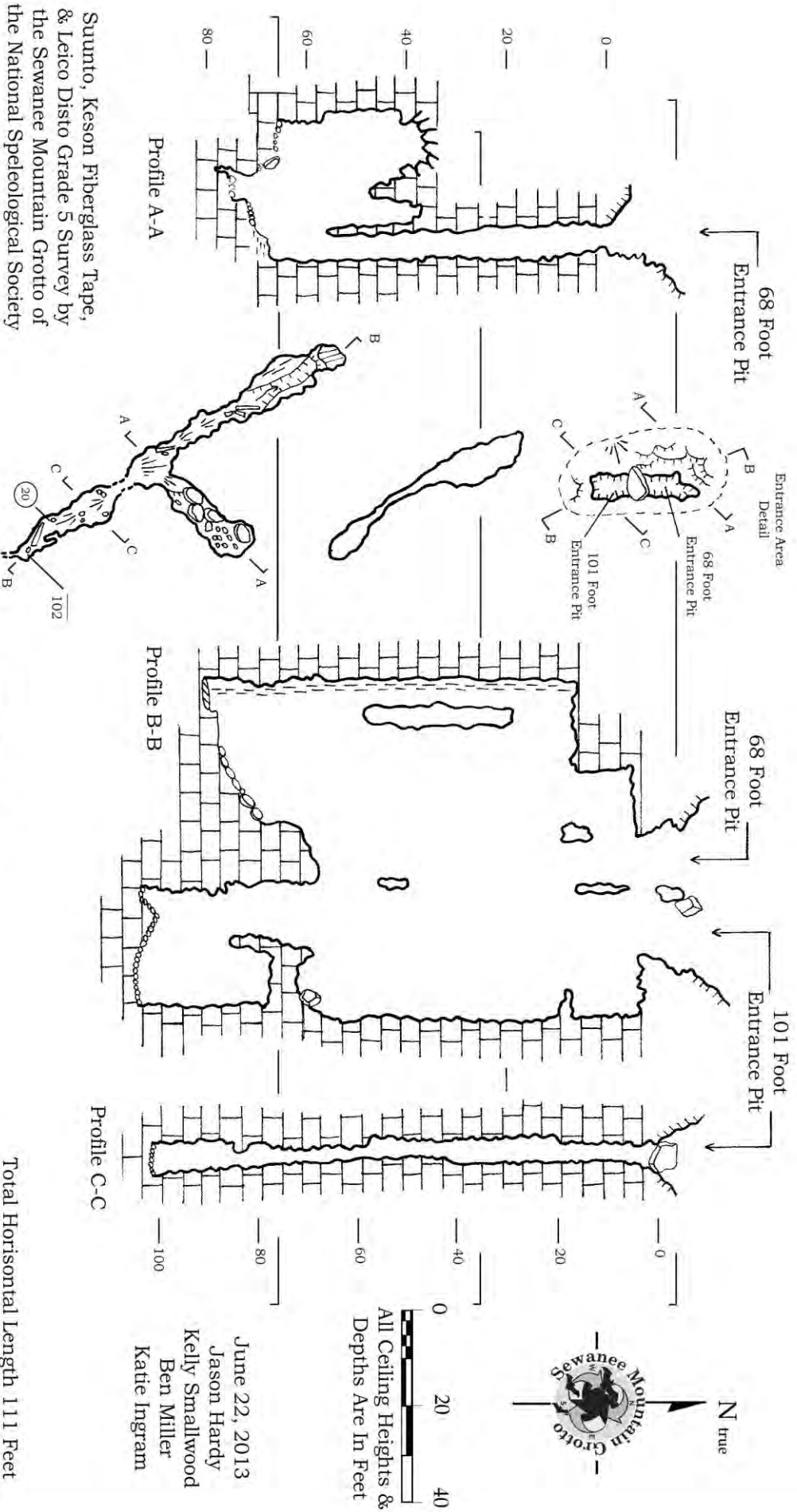
This cave is 0.25 miles north of Coppinger Chapel and 1000 feet northeast of the Dixon Cove intersection with Coppinger Cove. The walk is 150 feet from the paved Coppinger Cove Road. This tiny cave is in the same bluff as Wine Cave (MN141), but is 30 feet to the north. The entrance is 4 feet high and 3.5 feet wide. The passage is a single one 60 feet long to where no one can fit farther. The passage gets progressively lower the farther from the entrance one goes. (Marion O. Smith, 1993)

Thank you to all of the vendors who have  
donated to this years auction!



# Battle Creek Horror Hole

Marion County, Tennessee  
TMN 04



Suunto, Keson Fiberglass Tape,  
& Leico Disto Grade 5 Survey by  
the Sewanee Mountain Grotto of  
the National Speleological Society

Note: All pit plan views are  
oriented to True North

Total Horizontal Length 111 Feet  
Total Vertical Extent/Depth 102 Feet

June 22, 2013  
Jason Hardy  
Kelly Smallwood  
Ben Miller  
Katie Ingram



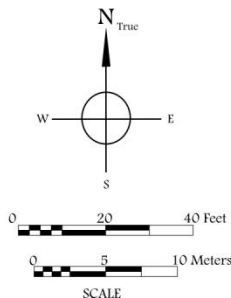
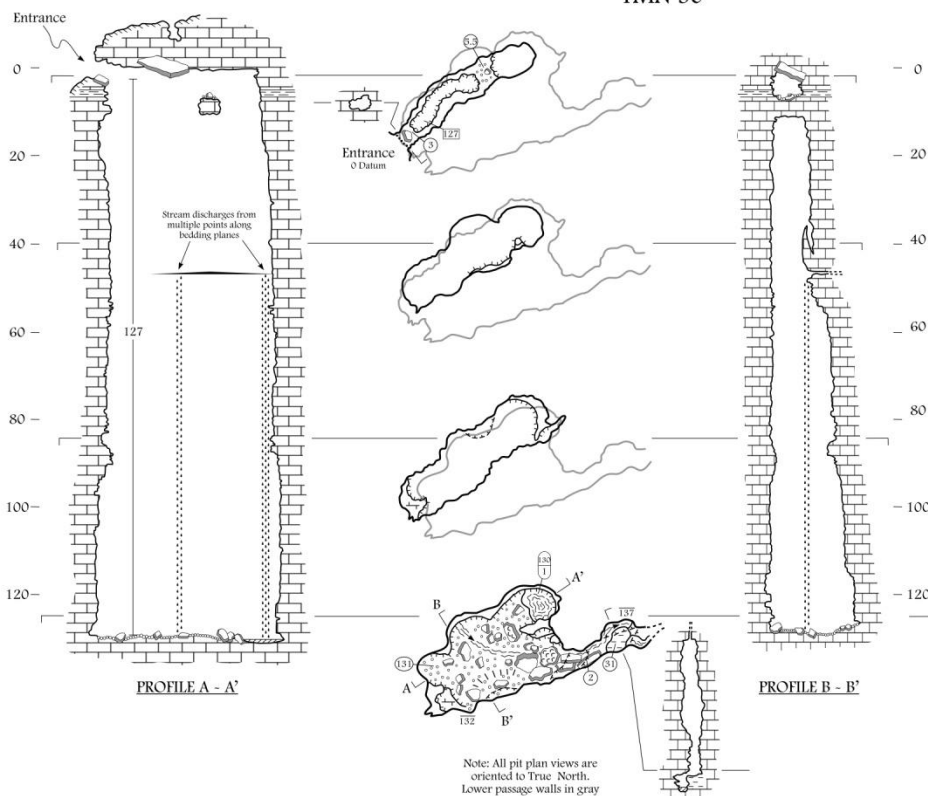
# MARKS PIT

Marion County, Tennessee  
Marion-Franklin State Forest  
TMN 50

Suuntos, Fiberglass Tape, & Leica Disto  
Survey By:  
Clinton Barber  
Ben Miller

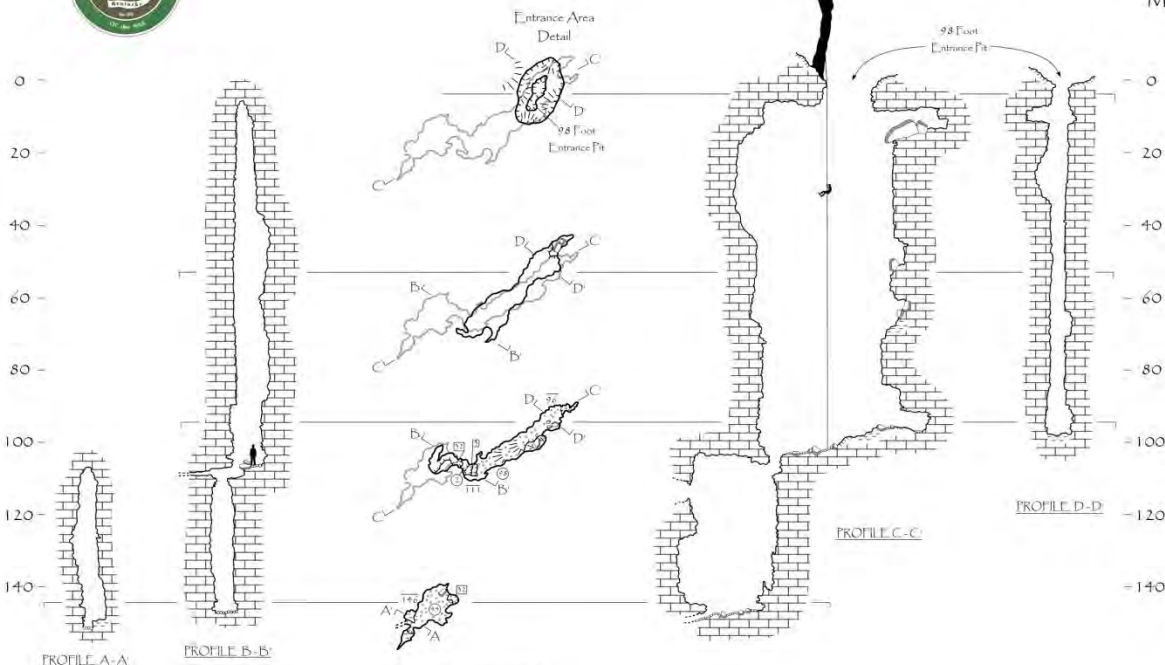
February 10, 2013

Drafted by Ben Miller, 2013



All Ceiling Heights & Depths Are In Feet  
Total Horizontal Length: 77.4 Feet (23.59 Meters)  
Total Vertical Extent/Depth: 137.5 Feet (41.90 Meters)  
Cave is formed in Mississippian Bargar Limestone

| LEGEND |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
|        | Passage Walls          |
|        | Lower Passage Walls    |
|        | Entrance Dripline      |
|        | Floor Ledge            |
|        | Ceiling Ledge          |
|        | Passage Continues      |
|        | Pit                    |
|        | Flowing Stream         |
|        | Breakdown              |
|        | Gravel                 |
|        | Clay Floor             |
|        | Bedrock Floor          |
|        | Slope                  |
|        | Ceiling Height         |
|        | Ledge Height/Pit Depth |
|        | Depth of Floor         |

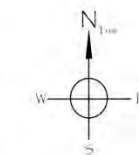


# RICKS PIT

Marion County, Tennessee  
TMN 065

Suuntos, Fiberglass Tape, & Leica Disto Survey By:  
Clinton Barber  
Ben Miller

February 9, 2013



All Ceiling Heights & Depths Are In Feet  
Total Horizontal Length: 55.9 Feet (16.43 Meters)  
Total Vertical Extent/Depth: 146.4 Feet (44.62 Meters)

White County, Tennessee  
TWH 012

March 14, 2013

Cave is formed in the Mississippian  
Hartselle Formation & Monteagle Limestone



### All Ceiling Heights & Depths Are In Feet

Total Horizontal Length: 53.9 Feet (16.43 Meters)  
Total Vertical Extent/Depth: 116.26 Feet (35.44 Meters)



**Noteworthy Hike in TAG:**  
**LITTLE CEDAR MOUNTAIN**  
**Activities: Hiking, Photography,**  
**Nature Appreciation, Historical**  
**Significance, Caves**  
**Rating: Easy to Moderate**

In 1782, when white men destroyed the village of Cherokee Indian Chief Dragging Canoe near South Chickamauga Creek he fled the town with his people. Dragging Canoe settled downriver, establishing five towns below the obstructions of the Tennessee River Gorge: Running Water (which is now known as Whiteside), Nickajack (near the cave), Long Island, Crow Town (at the mouth of Crow Creek), and Lookout Mountain Town (near Trenton, GA). From his base at Running Water, Chief Dragging Canoe led many attacks on white settlements all over the American southeast. When they were not attacking settlers, they were very likely hunting in the area many people now know as Little Cedar Mountain.

In the 1960's, when the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) decided that Hales Bar Dam was worn out, they seized Little Cedar Mountain and nearby land by eminent domain to build a new dam downstream and create Lake Nickajack. Flooding the area inundated both the town of Running Water and Nickajack Cave. Once the new dam was completed this gave once private land an unobstructed general public access to Little Cedar Mountain and the area quickly became one of the most popular and productive small game hunting areas in Marion County. Later in 1995, the TVA proposed selling the land to commercial developers who wanted to build a hotel and marina on the land. Many were against this proposal and they eventually won the battle but not for long.

In 2004, John "Thunder" Thornton stepped into the picture. John is a well known Chattanooga based developer of high end properties across the country. After courting many of those who were against the sell in 1995, he created what appeared to be a unique win-win opportunity for developers, the TVA, and the public. John went out and bought 1,100 acres of other premium river front properties, including the 250 acre Burns Island, and began to barter a swap with the TVA. In exchange for the land he purchased he wanted to trade the TVA for a large 700 acre river front tract next to Little Cedar Mountain. The deal would allow the TVA to retain ownership of the actual 319 acre Little Cedar Mountain tract for a public hiking trail, while providing more access for public use and a potential cash cow on new homes in Marion County. The deal went thru giving TVA Big Cedar Mountain (650 acres north of I-24), The Boyd Farm (200 acres of riverfront near Kimball), and Burns Island (250 acres in the middle of the Tennessee River).

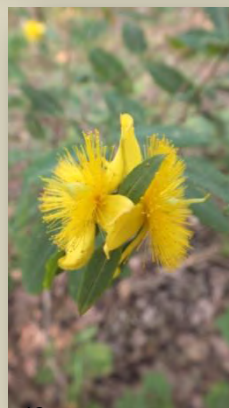
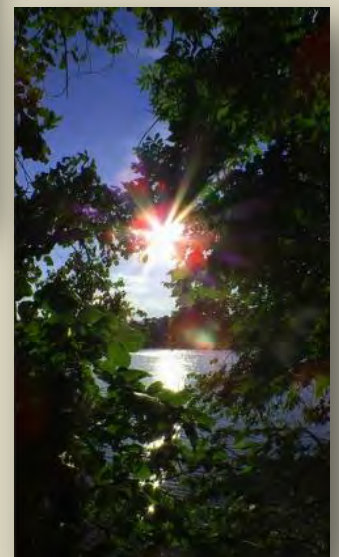
Soon after the swap, John Thornton sold the 700 acre Little Cedar property to Mike Ross who is the well known developer of the Rarity Properties near Knoxville. Ross intended to develop the Little Cedar property

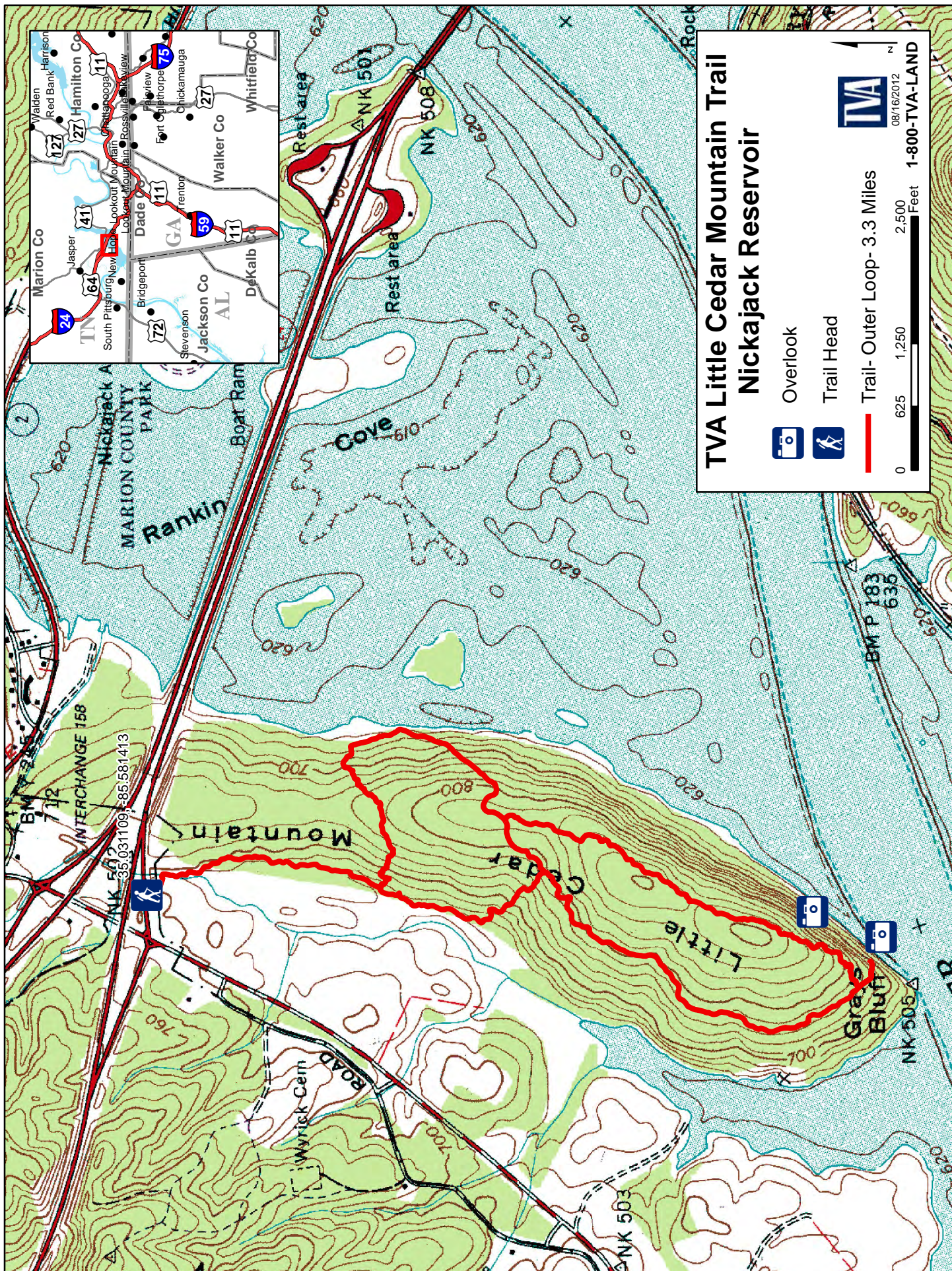
into another Rarity Club, an exclusive housing development surrounding a golf course and marina on the shores of Lake Nickajack. Ross heavily marketed the property and sold 58 lots, including one to John Thornton himself. The groundwork began on the development but work soon began to drag. The problem was Ross didn't put the money he made on the lots back into the development and as of today only two houses have been built on the tract. In November of 2012, Ross was federally indicted for mail fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering. Charges were later dropped in early 2013 citing the downturn of the economy in 2008 was a main factor in the failure of the development.

The TVA has since followed thru on their part and have constructed a trail system of over three miles on the 319 acre Little Cedar Mountain. The main trail basically forms a figure eight and if you hike the entire trail you will encounter two modest hill climbs and descents, but the majority of the trails are fairly level. Along the trail you may see wildlife and a variety of plants and mushrooms. The area is dog friendly and no camping is available.

There are also several small caves on Little Cedar Mountain. Two small pits were gated in 2005 due to archaeological significance. Little Cedar Mountain Cave, which is near the tip at Gray's Bluff, is not gated but has been known to host Gray and Indiana Bats and is currently closed due to the statewide closure of caves on public land in Tennessee. Field investigations revealed that the bats only transitionally use the cave in route to Nickajack Cave.

**DIRECTIONS:** Little Cedar Mountain can be accessed via Interstate 24 at Exit 158 in Marion County, TN. Head south on TVA Road, and immediately start looking for a gravel entrance way on the left side of the road just after the east bound entrance ramp for I-24. You will see a small trail marker sign at the entrance to the road. There is a larger kiosk and trail map located near the parking area and trail head.







## Fenix HP 25 Headlamp Review By Jeff Cody

Fenix has recently released its newest headlamp, the HP 25. I was selected to be part of their global testing program for this light. I received this light in late June. I have several Fenix products and have been happy with all of them. I also own a Fenix P3D special edition 220 lumen hand held, a Fenix LD 41 520 lumen 4 AA hand held, and a Fenix HP 10 headlamp. Like their other headlamps, this one also runs off 4 AA batteries. Mine came with 4

generic AA's, so I set those aside and tested mine with Sanyo Eneloop rechargeable AA batteries. This light also comes with a head strap and two cable clips. I do not like to use straps to mount so I used a small nut and bolt for the head and a zip tie and industrial Velcro to mount the battery case to my Petzl Ecrin Roc helmet for cave exploring. This light is rated at IPX -6 which basically means it is designed to be resistant to splashing water. The Fenix HP 11 has the same rating. My Fenix HP 10 and The HP 20 has a better IPX 8 rating that allows for a submersion in water for 2 meters for 30 minutes. The HP 25 has a cost of about 70 US Dollars, similar in price to The Princeton Tec Apex.

The specs on The HP 25 are as follows: Two LEDs, one for flood and one for spot. They can be operated individually or you can run both at one time unlike any other cave worthy light in this price range I am aware of. The Flood has 4 output settings of 4, 45, 90, & 180 lumen. The spot has three output settings of 45, 90, & 180 lumen. Run times with good rechargeable batteries are listed at 220, 24, 11, and 4.5 hours on flood and 30 , 11, and 4.5 hours on spot mode. If you chose to run both at once run times will be less. The maximum output using both spot and flood on high is 380 lumen, impressive for a light in this price range. This light can also be operated with regular alkaline AA batteries but run times will be slightly less but still impressive. The light is controlled by two switches on top of the head, one for flood and one for spot. Many combinations of light options are possible. The flood also has an SOS mode. This light has reverse polarity protection and is designed to ANSI/ NEMA FL1 standards. The battery case has one thumbscrew that you rotate to release the inner battery case from the outer case. The inner case has the wire attached to it. The head can be tilted down and needs to be tilted down one click to allow for easier reach to the recessed switches because there is a plastic cover that partially covers the switches when the head is in the up position. I assume this is done to help prevent the light from being accidentally turned on which is a nice feature.

The same day this light came to me I mounted it to one of my Petzl Ecrin Roc helmets. I loaded a set of Sanyo Eneloops and clicked one of the buttons and nothing happened, I clicked the other button and nothing happened. I thought maybe my batteries were dead so I loaded another set of batteries and had the same result. I looked at the info sheet that came with the light and learned unlike other lights you have to depress the switch and hold it down for a half second to a full second before it comes on. I took the light outside after dark and ran through the light options. My initial reaction was positive. The mounted light felt light on my head and has a compact look to it but not quite as compact as The HP 10. I then compared it to my Fenix HP 10 and my Custom Duo full face 280 lumen unit. The spot on The HP 25 was similar but slightly brighter at close range and a distance to The HP 10, very nice. The flood was not quite as wide spread as the flood on the more expensive Custom Duo but the brightness was similar. The spot on the HP 25 was definitely brighter than the spot on The Custom Duo. I do not own the later version Omni V3 Custom Duo insert so I cannot comment on the comparison with that unit. I did notice outdoors that I had to tilt the head down several clicks

to get the preferred amount of light around my feet without having to point the light down at them. My back yard goes out about 100 feet or so from my back porch and the spot easily reached the outer limits of my yard. It reached the back of the house behind me that I estimate is at least 200 feet away. The flood produced a circular type glow around me but needed some tilt on the head to sufficiently light my feet when looking out. I also brought out my El Speleo 2000 headlamp that is 1000 lumen on both flood and spot and costs 480 Dollars, not a fair comparison to a 70 dollar light but I could not help myself. The flood on the El Speleo blew the flood of The HP 25 out of the water but what do you expect from a light that cost about 7 times as much. The spot comparison was similar to the comparison I did with my other lights to The El Speleo. The El Speleo had a wider angle spot but the Fenix HP 10 and HP 25 had a brighter white pin point spot that may appear brighter especially up close. I have to say at this point that El Speleo has caving specific optics and Fenix is more of a multiple purpose sport light.

I then took the light into a cave along with another person who had a similar priced 200 Lumen Princeton Tec Apex. The Apex cannot match this light in terms of choices of light options. I found the flood on this light is sufficient for all but larger passage and like my findings outdoors I had to tilt the head down some to get the amount of light around my feet I am comfortable with. The flood on the Apex seemed a little brighter but the spot comparisons were similar. The Apex could not run on its high setting as long as The Fenix HP 25. I have noticed on previous trips in years past with earlier models that Fenix seems to be more efficient on batteries than Apex. Using the combination of flood and spot in the cave did produce a very nice beam pattern for a light in this price range. I was in the cave for a little over three hours and never changed batteries running at intermediate settings and playing with different beam options. It looks to me like the listed run times are correct or close to correct. When I got home and cleaned everything up I ran the HP 25 under running water to clean it up and that did not seem to bother the light at all. I also dunked it in a bucket of water a few times and so far it has not affected the light. I would highly recommend this light for caving as long as one is not into serious wetsuit swims. It should be fine around misty rappels with its IPX 6 rating. If I were getting into serious water underground, I would likely grab my Duo/ Custom Duo or HP 10 or El Speleo but for most caving situations this light is a nice lower cost option.





*Please remember that when you visit a TAG cave most of them are privately owned. We are fortunate to have some of the best landowners around so please be respectful of their rights as a land/cave owner. Please make every effort to stop by and let a landowner know your plans and respect their wishes. If you arrive at a cave and there is already a large group present, consider visiting another cave.*

*I have chosen to only list a few selected vertical caves in the vicinity for you HARD CORE types. If you visit any of the caves in Gaines Cove, please make sure to stop by Mr. Martin's house and sign a liability waiver for access thru his land.*

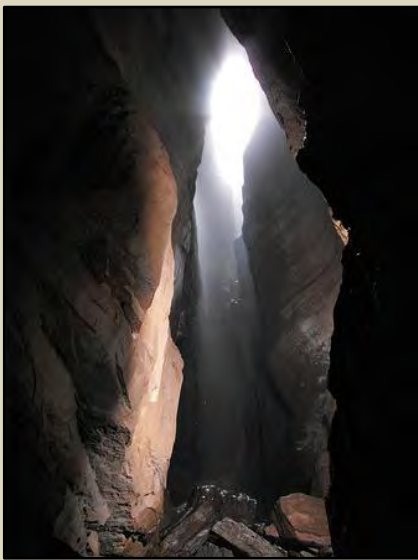
### **GO HOLE MN253**

Entrance Elevation 1270ft

Cave Length: 207'

Cave Depth: 196'

Geology: Bangor Limestone



Located on the north side of Gaines Cove, 4000 feet northwest of the last house in Gaines Cove. A logging road directly above the Bangor contact turns downhill next to a dry streambed. Go Hole is in the dry creekbed at the contact.

Go Hole has a large 30-foot by 20-foot pit entrance. Rig on the west side of the pit for the best and deepest drop. The entrance drop is 145 feet deep. After following a passage for 200 feet, climb up 20 feet and go through a crawl to another 19-foot pit. At the bottom a 25-foot climbdown leads to nothing. A side lead blows air, but is too small.

A second entrance (5 feet wide by 6 feet long) goes 15 feet down a pit, under a land bridge, to a boulder strewn slope into the main pit. (Gerald Moni, 1978)

***\*You could make a day out of bouncing all the "O" Holes in Gaines Cove\****

### **SNAKE WELL MN262**

Entrance Elevation 1220ft

Cave Length: 4221'

Cave Depth: 207'

Geology: Bangor Limestone

Snake Well is located 3000 feet west-southwest of the Martin Springs exit off I-24. Get permission from Mr. Martin. Go uphill behind Mr. Martin's House (west) to major dirt road that originates from Gaines Cove (known as the Stage Coach Road). Go right on this road to the top, four wheel drive is not necessary in dry weather. Once near the GPS cords, follow the ravine downhill to the east approximately 500 feet to the entrance sink. Except in very dry conditions, water appears as a spring below the road and flows down the ravine into the entrance sink of Snake Well.

The entrance is a 39-foot pit in the uppermost sink of three sinks. The other two sinks contain entrances to Worm Well (MN577) and Sperm Well (MN578). The entrance pit can be rigged using a 2-foot diameter tree at



the edge of the middle sink. There are two routes from the bottom of the entrance pit to the main streamway in the cave, the wet route and the dry route.

The wet route follows the water down a 32-foot pit that can be rigged dry using a pillar past the waterfall. Going under the waterfall at the bottom of the pit leads to an upper and lower belly crawl. The lower crawl is tight and leads to Birthday Pit, an awkward 22-foot pit. This can be rigged to a pillar at the beginning of the crawl and can be rebelayed on a natural projection at the pit. The upper crawl leads to a 29-foot pit that enters the same room as Birthday Pit and can be rigged to a pillar at the lip. From the room at the bottom of the two pits, follow the water down a 7-foot climbdowndown and into a canyon passage. The water then goes down an 8-foot climbdowndown into a small room that requires a wet squeeze into the dome room

beyond. Alternatively, one can stay dry by climbing out into the canyon to an 8-foot climbdowndown directly into the dome room. Following the water into a narrow canyon leads to a waterfall and an 8-foot climbdowndown. From here, leave the water behind and follow a short crawl to Crocodile Rock and Pebblehenge Junction where the wet route joins the dry route.

In the dry route, step over the wet 32-foot pit and go down a dry 27-foot pit (this can be a bit wet in wet conditions). The same pillar for the 32-foot pit can be used to rig this drop. Then go down a 9-foot climbdowndown and take the right crawlway. At a junction, a squeeze to the right goes to a crawlway that connects with the top of the 29-foot pit on the wet route. Left at the junction leads to a 49-foot pit that can be rigged using a pillar at the junction. At the bottom of this pit, going downhill through a tight canyon and down an 8-foot climbdowndown leads to a room.

From here, follow the 150-foot long Bathtub Belly Crawl to the Lost Sweater Room. Then follow the water downstream to an 8-foot climbdowndown and onto Pebblehenge Junction. From Pebblehenge Junction, follow the sinuous, meandering streamway for approximately 1500 feet. This is generally walking passage and trends south-southeast. At this point there is an infeasider on the right and the main stream passage turns to the northeast. Following the stream leads to a wider and taller passage with several connections to an upper level. The passage then turns east and leads to a room with lots of rimstone dams. The stream flows under a flowstone shelf. A belly crawl under the shelf leads to a room with small breakdown on the floor that the stream disappears into. Mud coats the walls and floor of this area indicating that it floods. The end of the passage is about 360 feet away from where the water resurges as a spring in a cliff and then flows downhill into Currys Chasm (MN398).

There are two climbups into the upper level, a 14-foot climbup in the main streamway just downstream of the infeasider, and a 9-foot climbup in a room off of the infeasider. There are also three pits that connect the upper-level passages and the main streamway, a 18-foot pit, a 24-foot pit with a waterfall, and a 16-foot pit where most of the water from the stream above spouts from two holes in the wall from the passage below. The upper-level passages directly above the main streamway are generally sandy, canyon passages. Downstream, these end as sandy crawls. In the upstream direction from the 9-foot climbup leads to a pop-through into the Big Room. A 10-foot climbup next to a scree slope leads to Flowstone Canyon above. This canyon is 75 feet long and 10 feet wide at the bottom and has flowstone draperies on the walls from the balconies above. Waterfalls from above enter from both sides of the canyon. Climbing up the scree slope at the one end of the canyon and past two large haystacks leads to the Jewelry Box, a decorated dome with flowstone and totems on the floor and draperies on the ceiling. Continuing upstream leads to a wet 15-foot climbup followed by a 12-foot climbup. Following the water upstream at the top of the second climb leads to a flowstone blockage. A 10-foot high, narrow dome directly above the second climb ends with nuts on the floor. This is VERY close to

the surface on the edge of a ravine. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) were observed in the cave stream. (Gerald Moni, 1979; Brent T. Aulenbach, 2001)

#### **DEW DROP INN MN304**

Entrance Elevation 1080ft      Cave length: 2000'      Cave Depth: 170'      Geology: Bangor Limestone

Dew Drop Inn is on the south side of Tate Cove, below Jackson Point in a blue-line creek. The 25-by-6-foot entrance pit drops 56 feet. Fifty feet of passage leads to a 20-foot wide, 74-foot pit. At the bottom there are 4 to 6 passages leading off in different directions. Two passages, the stream passage and a large overflow passage, go the furthest. The stream passage goes 600 feet to a low airspace with a very strong airflow. The upper overflow passage goes 500 feet to a stream crawl in a low airspace; probably the passages end in the same low water passage. The low passage was pushed by Jim Smith with air tanks. He went another 400 feet before it became too low. (Gerald Moni, 1980)

#### **DOBSON PIT MN12**

Entrance Elevation 1040ft      Cave length: 1000'      Cave Depth: 160'      Geology: Bangor Limestone

Located in a large, shallow sink 0.7 miles west-southwest of Fishtrap Point on the west side of Price Ridge, at the northeast corner of the sink in a streambed. The entrance is above a large sinkhole marked on the topo.

The entrance is 3 feet in diameter, from which the cave extends 15 feet as a crawlway to the top of a pit. The pit has a minor ledge 8 feet down, and then no more ledges until bottom is reached 94 feet down. The pit receives considerable amounts of water during wet weather and can only be descended after a dry spell.

After the 94-foot entrance drop (depth may be wrong on this pit), a 75-foot crawl leads to a 37-foot pit. At the bottom a small stream passage leads for 750 feet to a 10-foot climbable waterfall. The two passages at the bottom go for a few hundred feet and then end, one at a 75-foot dome, the other in 10-foot-deep pools of water. (Leonard Munson in Matthews, 1971; Gerald Moni, 1972)

#### **HANG'EM HIGH CAVE MN350**

Entrance Elevation 1200ft      Cave length: 19351'      Cave Depth: 528'      Geology: Bangor-St Louis

Hang'em High is located on the east side of Collins Cove, within the Franklin-Marion State Forest, 6200 feet south-southwest of Red Hill. E1 is in the middle gully of three gullies shown on the topo map, and E2 is northwest of E1 in the next major gully.

The main entrance (E1) is a 28-foot pit within a major gully. However, the best rig is the high side of the pit, which is 70 feet deep. A 40-foot deep slope leads to a 36-foot pit, which can be bypassed by climbing down a slot to the right of the pit. The second entrance has two 10-foot climbdowns, two 5-foot climbdowns, then 200 feet of passage to an 18-foot pit which comes in at the breakdown slope below the entrance pit at E1. At the bottom of the 36-foot drop, a crawlway to the right and a climbdown bypasses a 36-foot climbdown in the

main stream passage. A 100-foot-long crawl leads to a 25-foot-wide, 20-foot-high breakdown meandering passage. Then there is a 25-foot vertical slope to a 66-foot pit through a “Valhalla Rock Jam”. Within 300 feet are 3 more pits (25, 60, 36 feet deep). The 25-foot pit can be freeclimbed.

At the top of the second to last pit (60 feet), there is a squeeze through breakdown along the right wall that goes to a short crawl (10 feet) over chert that is suspended above the canyon. The floor is punctuated with holes to the canyon below. A squeeze down to the right leads to another 10 feet of hands and knees crawl to walking-sized passage. Fifteen feet led to an offset pit of unknown depth. An extremely scary mud and shale traverse along the right wall over the pit for 10 feet led to another 15 feet of walking passage to a 97-foot pit (taped). A natural rig on the left wall to a boulder pinch was used. A rebelay bolt was set 15' below the lip. Nice drop and mostly free. The bottom connects into the passage below the last pit (36 feet) near an incoming waterfall dome and breakdown pile.

From the bottom of the 36-foot pit the passage goes 300 feet as a multi-level canyon passage. The stream sinks into a too-tight crawl. The best route is to climb up, then go through 100 feet of breakdown to the first fault room. From this room a sloping breakdown leads to a 400-foot crawl which ends at the main trunk passage, 3500 feet long. Upstream, the passage goes 1500 feet through some large rooms. A major stream was noted in one section. The passage ends in a complex area of passages, rooms and domes. Some airflow.

Downstream from the junction, the walking passage goes 2000 feet, through some large rooms. The first room, 400 feet from the junction, has a dry overflow crawlway entering from the left side. This passage probably carries water from the entrance in wet weather. At the end of the main passage, a lower level leads to the drain for the system. Several hundred feet of crawl has been pushed in this section. Near the end of the main passage, an upper tight climbup leads to the second fault room. About 2000 feet of side passages lead off from this area.

The lower levels of the cave have since been pushed extensively by Robert Coney and friends, bringing the cave to over 19,000 feet in length and 528 feet in depth. Beyond the second fault chamber, the Free Form Horror Crawl leads to several thousand feet more cave, including a 20-foot upclimb (on rope). The completed map shows average passage dimensions in the far reaches of the cave to be 3 to 18 feet high and 1 to 10 feet wide. The cave ends in a sump. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) and the Tennessee cave salamanders (*Gyrinophilus palleucus palleucus*) live in the cave stream.

The pit depths are 70, (slot & climbdown bypassing 36-foot pit), 66, 25, 60, and 36 feet. The ropes needed are 90, 85, 50, 95, and 40 feet. There are 5 bolts. (Marion O. Smith, 1984; Gerald Moni, 1988; Andy Zellner, 1998; Ryan Moran, 2004)





# Recycle An Aluminum Can, Save A Cave



The Sewanee Mountain Grotto first started recycling cans at caving events to raise funds for the conservation of caves. You can find our recycle containers at the SERA Summer Cave Carnivals, the TAG Fall Cave In and our annual event Sewanee Mountain Cave Fest. For every can you recycle we turn it into cash for the conservation of caves. Please take the time to sort the recyclables in your campground. We provide containers for both Aluminum and Plastic.

