

# BEXARfacts

June 2011

## Deep Cave Survey

Joe Mitchell

The weekend of June 18-19, 2011 marked the beginning of the return of Project Deep! From 1999-2008, the Deep Cave survey mapped over 2.7 km of passage in the cave and made many discoveries. However, the project is far from completed as numerous leads exist in many parts of the cave and the far western portion remains poorly explored and un-mapped. A pair of maps from the 1960's drawn from memory hint at many discoveries ahead.

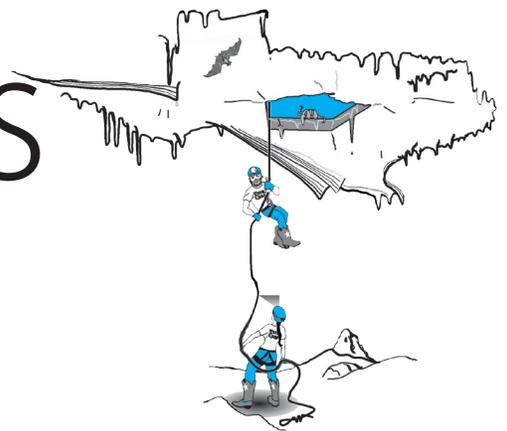
This trip was not a survey trip, but a preliminary trip and involved scouting the cave, checking some leads and transferring information. The team who entered the cave consisted of Don Arburn, Jerry Atkinson, John Brooks, Joe Mitchell, Linda Palit, and Monica Ponce. Jerry had been leading the Deep survey project since its inception and is now passing it on. He gave the group a detailed tour of the cave along various routes, identifying significant features and providing some of his knowledge of the cave. We also discussed survey strategy and project considerations.

Also visiting the property were Jenni Arburn, Evelynn Mitchell, and Kayla Mitchell who spent the day Saturday at Lake Amistad.

Most of the team arrived on Friday night with the exception of John, who because of traffic, didn't make it until the next morning. Saturday morning was spent relaxing on the back porch and enjoying the briefly pleasant temperatures before the brutal heat set in. The team entered the cave shortly before Noon. We travel the routes to many of the major locations in the cave and discussed possible leads.

After venturing down the main route to the Wall of Masks, we headed up to Bear Scratch Hall and looked at the entrances to the Mixed Messages Maze. Continuing out along the Western Chasm past the Crooked Broomstick Room, the team

continued next page



## Logan's Cave Survey

Ellie Watson

On June 15th, 2011 we had the biggest turnout yet for a Logan's Cave survey and on a weeknight even!!! 10 people total met at the Dairy Queen well before the appointed 7pm and we were already heading out to the cave before the actual meeting time. By 8pm we had split up teams and were beginning survey in the cave/surface.

Drew Wendeborn led the O Survey on sketch with Monica Ponce and Wade McDaniel on instruments. Monica Ponce was visiting from Mexico. Their main objective was to connect the M Survey into The Big Room and they were a success.

Ellie Watson led the N Survey on sketch with Evelynn Mitchell and Sheldon Watson on instruments and they surveyed the west section of The Big Room. Evelynn taught Sheldon instruments and with a whopping 3 shots, they did a great job. Sheldon is new to the Bexar Grotto and also brought his 17 year-old daughter, Sarah Watson and she helped find stations. Ellie shot a disto up into the prominent dome in the middle of the room of their survey and read 24.8 meters, she also noticed a traverse line a quarter way up the dome. Below the dome she spotted a black beetle, millipede, pill bug, earwig, cave harvestman, and a red spider she doesn't know the name of.

continued next page

## UPCOMING TRIPS

Date	Trip	Contact
Jul 9-10	Deep Cave Survey and Lead Push is full but contact Joe to be wait-listed.	Joe Mitchell
Jul 31	Twinkies' Palace Water Cave, Wet suites recommended	Ellie Watson
Oct 22-23	Ground Hog Vertical (must have vertical experience)	Ellie Thane

## Deep Survey continued

checked out several unexplored leads, finding several promising future survey routes as well as seeing some of the nicer formations in that area such as the Turnips and the Crystal Waterfall. Returning, we dropped down into the entrance to the Lost World section and the headed over to the Miller Time Room and looked at the entrance to the MCM crawl.

Continuing down to the Helictite Room, we looked for potential leads off of this room and took a break. Heading back up to the Entrance area, we dropped down to the Bat Room where there was a small population of Myotis on the ceiling and also looked at the entrance to the eVentful Maze area. After a total of 6 hours, we exited the cave to stifling heat of more than 105F and hiked back to Don's truck parked near Punkin where cold drinks were enjoyed.

Evelynn had prepared a hearty spaghetti and meatball dinner for us when we returned to the cabin and a relaxing evening was enjoyed. Everyone departed on Sunday morning.

The first survey trip is scheduled for the weekend of July 9-10, 2011. This will be a small trip and a full set of teams has already been established, but if you are interested in a future trip, or want to be on a waiting list in the event of cancellations for this trip, please let me know. Deep is a complex and challenging cave to survey in, so experienced surveyors are wanted!

As of now, Deep Cave stands at a length of 2,730 m and a depth of 77.6 m making it the 16th longest and 19th deepest cave in Texas.

## Logan's Survey continued

The rocks below the dome were clean washed and polished and there was a small bit of surface debris such as pine needles and a moldy mountain laurel seed. Besides the large dome in the middle of the room, there are two more dome leads in the survey and one muddy crawl lead by N3. The N Survey started at station L11 and Drew's O Survey ended at station L11 so we will see how all that works out once the data is in walls.

Josh Rubinstein lead a surface survey with Corey Burrell and Mark Childre on tape and instrument. They later went into the cave to reshoot some bad shots.

The Entrance Room was teeming with life as usual and they noticed scores of, crickets, red spiders, throbbing harvestmen, a huge frog, a black scorpion, and a brown scorpion inside the gate. The team was out of the cave by 11.45pm.

There is still PLENTY of cave to survey so look out for the next trip!

### Robber Baron Babies

Baby Bats were discovered in Robber Baron by Aspen Schindle during a trip for Trinity HS last week. The first photo was taken on the way in the cave (look closely to see the third baby under the mamma). Several hours later, the mamma had gone to eat.

### Counter Clockwise

Making sure the guys who didn't come out to meet her know Jill's in Robber Baron.

Lori, Jill & Aspen - What happened at Hillsindale stays in Hillsindale.

Lori & Jill - getting ready to help lead a trip in Robber Baron



All Photos  
by  
Mike Harris

### Hauling Rock

Joe, Mike, and Steve moved a mini boulder in Robber Baron in the newest dig location in their quest for new passage.