



Cave Survey Synopsis

February 28, 2013

Team members:

Kelly Mathis (trip leader)

Jessica Reese

Tyler Devine

Ken Steinken

The purpose of this trip was to map remaining leads near a large room called The Hub, north of the Scenic Tour route.

The team found many delicate gypsum formations along their survey, including gypsum beards. Beards are fine strands of nearly-transparent gypsum (calcium sulfate) that cling to the walls and ceiling. They are extremely delicate, and will waver back and forth in response to a person's body heat! Although some beards in Jewel Cave are more than two feet long, the beards found by this team were between three inches and seven inches long.

98.55 feet were surveyed on this 5.5-hour trip.

The current length of Jewel Cave is 164.97 miles.



Gypsum beard. NPS Photo



Gypsum beard. NPS Photo



Ken Steinken reads the survey instruments. NPS Photo.

**New Jewel Cave Survey
February 28, 2013**

— New Survey

Scenic Tour Route

Elevator

