



Cave Survey Synopsis

February 2, 2013

Team members:

Chris Pelczarski (trip leader)	Rene Ohms
Roger Harris	Chase Roskos
Pat Schwinghammer	MaryBeth Wells

The group traveled together to Z56, near the Halloween Passage, and split into two teams to survey. Chris, Roger, and Pat planned to start at Z56C and survey a connection to the main travel route that had been noted on the original map, as well as one small lead. After that, they would go up the main Z survey, past where the other team was working, and survey leads farther north.

As it turned out, their first lead kept them busy all day, and branched into several new leads that still remain to be checked! This area has evidence of airflow, and is beautifully decorated with calcite popcorn and sculpted “rims.”



Roger Harris and a popcorn-lined rim. NPS Photo

The connection to the main route was more convoluted than shown on the map, and it took sever-

al survey shots to complete it. They finished the day with 250.95 feet of survey, and left more to do on the next trip.

Meanwhile, Rene, Chase, and MaryBeth completed the remaining survey near Z59. They found that the passage trended to the northeast, then looped back to the southwest through a tight hole. It connects to an already-surveyed passage at Z59E.



Chase Roskos reads the compass at Z59W. NPS Photo

Next, they surveyed some short dead-end passages at Z60, then began mapping an interesting lead going north near Z61. It branches into two additional leads, but the team didn't have time to finish it. Near Z61D, they found a very small bat skull. The second team's total survey was 369.15 feet.

The teams met back up at Z56 and traveled out of the cave together, completing the 8-hour trip at 5:00 p.m.

The current length of Jewel Cave is 164.63 miles.

New Jewel Cave Survey

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