



# Cave Survey Synopsis

February 7, 2013

## Team members:

Kelly Mathis (trip leader)                      Jessica Reese

MaryBeth Wells                                      Chase Roskos

This was a trip to the L survey, in an upper-level area of the cave called Rambling Loft. The team's objective was to explore leads that had been marked on the map in 1963, and survey any passages found beyond.

The team found several bat bones, and even saw a live bat! Live bats have occasionally been seen this far into the cave, but it is very uncommon. Rambling Loft has strong airflow, which circulates through high domes in the ceiling and could lead bats astray if they try to follow it. Bats may think that they are heading toward an entrance, when none exists. This area is deeply buried by more than 200 feet of overlying rock, which makes it unlikely that the bat came in from an unknown entrance nearby. This bat probably came in the Historic Entrance, about a half-mile away, and may not be able to find its way out of the cave again.

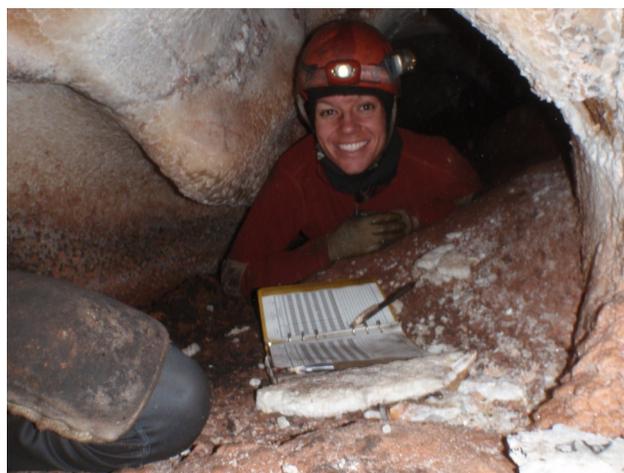


Bat bones near L101AC. NPS Photo



Fossils near L101AI. NPS Photo

The surveyors also found interesting fossils, including a large colonial coral and several brachiopods. These are the remains of marine animals that lived in an ancient sea millions of years ago. The Pahasapa Limestone, in which the cave later formed, was deposited at the bottom of this sea and is composed partly of calcium carbonate from shells.



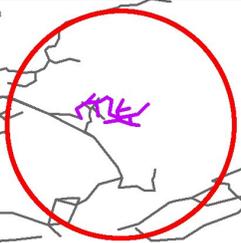
Jessica recorded the inventory data. Inventory data lists features (like bones, or formations) and ties them to locations on the map. NPS Photo.

A total of 273.35 feet were surveyed on this 8-hour trip.

***The current length of Jewel Cave is 164.68 miles.***

# New Jewel Cave Survey

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— New Survey

Scenic Tour Route

Elevator

