



Georgia Speleological Survey
c/o Brent T. Aulenbach
195 Windy Court SW
Lilburn, GA 30047-6442

31 December, 2007

Buddy Lane, SCCi Frick's Cave Property Manager
40 Hidden Brook Lane
Signal Mountain, TN 37377-2063

RE: Georgia Speleological Survey Saturday, September 22nd, 2007 Trip Report for
Resurvey of Frick's Cave, Walker County, Georgia

Dear Buddy,

The 20th day of surveying in Frick's Cave was held on Saturday, September 22nd, 2007. This trip was taken with special permission in order to take advantage of the low water conditions during this time, which made it more feasible to reach the upstream portions of the cave. The goal of the trip was to survey, explore, and photo document the passage at the upstream end of the cave where we left off on the last survey trip in late February.

There was a total of nine participants making up three teams of three people each – two survey teams and one photo team. The first survey team was made up of Philip Rykwaldner (sketcher), Manuel Beers, and Ron Miller. The second survey team was made up of Paul Aughey, Nancy Aulenbach, and Brent Aulenbach (sketcher). The photo team was made up of Benji Von Cramon, Dawn Von Cramon, and Holly Bunch. We all entered the cave at 10:05 a.m. The low airspace in the stream belly crawl was a roomy 7 inches. We arrived at the beginning of the survey at 11:20 a.m. This was at the beginning of a large breakdown trunk passage.

The first survey team went on ahead to the end of the trunk passage and up a breakdown passage at the end of this and started surveying back out. Meanwhile, the second survey team surveyed a few side passages at the beginning of the trunk passage and then surveyed the trunk passage. The trunk passage gets as wide as about 70 feet and as tall as 44 feet (height measured using a disto). Unfortunately, the trunk passage went for only about 200 feet before going up into breakdown. At that point, the stream came out of a low passage that could not be penetrated more than 100 feet upstream. The two teams tied their respective surveys together at the end of the trunk passage. While the first team finished up surveying the breakdown, the second team surveyed a side stream passage that became too tight.

Both teams then worked on several upper level canyons and crawlways that took off from east side of the trunk passage at the ceiling level. This required several tricky climbs to get up some muddy, shear walls. One canyon passage split before both passages ended in fill. Another passage made a loop, and at one point had a window that looked down into the trunk passage. Another canyon passage was surveyed to a restriction caused by a large rock combined with a tight curve. Nancy was able to get past this and reported that the passage continued another couple hundred feet of narrow walking passage to a four-way junction. The passage has air, and this appears to be the way on. It is possible that this upper level bypasses the constriction at the lower stream-level. A bit of digging out the floor in a gypsum sand will be required for others to get past the restriction. Surveying ended at 7:55 p.m. The survey teams exited the cave together at about 8:45 p.m.

The photo team started by taking pictures of the breakdown trunk passage and documented some of the virgin cave surveyed during the day. The photo team then started their way out of the cave taking several photographs on the way out. They exited the cave sometime around 6 p.m. Digital copies of the photographs are included on a cd rom. A listing of the description of the 17 photographs is as follows:

- Frks01.tif Beginning of breakdown trunk passage looking upstream into unknown.
- Frks02.tif Breakdown trunk passage looking downstream. This is where ceiling height was 44 feet.
- Frks03.tif Pancake Room. In breakdown passage going up at south end of breakdown trunk passage.
- Frks04.tif Breakdown passage going up at south end of breakdown trunk passage?
- Frks05.tif Breakdown passage going up at south end of breakdown trunk passage?
- Frks06(a-e).tif Interesting eroded slab of rock at south (upstream) end of breakdown trunk passage.
- Frks07.tif Breakdown trunk passage.
- Frks08.tif Interesting eroded out pebble from streambed in breakdown trunk passage.
- Frks09.tif Formations in breakdown trunk passage.
- Frks10.tif Horn coral colony at beginning (north end – upstream end) of breakdown trunk passage.
- Frks11.tif Cascade Room. This is soon after the (upstream of the) low air space in the stream belly crawl.
- Frks12.tif The (typically) low air space in the stream belly crawl.
- Frks13.tif Photo team at entrance (L to R: Dawn Von Cramon, Benji Von Cramon, Holly Bunch)

The first team surveyed 685.2 feet in 45 survey shots, while the second team surveyed 699.45 feet in 33 survey shots, for a total of 1,384.65 feet (0.26 miles) in 78 survey shots. The cave is now at 13,982 feet (2.65 miles) long (after removing set-up and splay survey shots). This moves up the cave from the tenth longest in Georgia to the eighth longest, surpassing Cemetery Pit and Mountain Cove Cave #3 (Ulla Cave). A new high point was

surveyed to at the end of the uptrending breakdown. The cave now has a vertical extent of 185 feet (was 131 feet with the old highest point being the 15 foot pit entrance).

The passages generally paralleled Left Fork Coulter Branch which lies about 500 feet to the west. We are still about 800 straight-line-distance from where the water in Left Fork Coulter Branch sinks into the streambed in dry conditions. The upstream end of the cave should trend southwest towards its source of water.

Thank you again for allowing us to have this special trip in order to take advantage of the lower water conditions. It was a very productive trip. I apologize for the tardiness of this report.

If you have any questions, comments, or problems, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent T. Aulenbach, Frick's Cave Resurvey Project Coordinator

cc:

Philip Rykwald

Brian Krebs, SCCi Chair

Nancy Aulenbach, GSS Chair

Attached:

Cave survey statistics from Compass

Line plot of cave from Compass with passages surveyed on this trip highlighted

Line plot of cave with topographic overlay

Copies of all survey notes with survey data file from Compass

Loop closure information from Compass

Reduced station locations from Compass

Compact disk with copies of photos