

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

P O Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000

Volume 33 Number 3 December 1988



N E W S L E T T E R

"HO, HO, HO!!
SURVEYING??
NO, NO, NO!!"



CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

MEETING PLACE: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the
Royal Society S A meeting room at the Museum

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT & PUBLICATIONS & EQUIPMENT OFFICER	Kevin Mott	3 Harcourt Road PAYNEHAM 5070 (H) 42 2441 (W) 226 2146
VICE PRESIDENT & PUBLIC OFFICER & MEMBERSHIP	Graham Pilkington	66 Eyre Crescent VALLEY VIEW 5093 (H) 264 2598 (W) 274 7620
TREASURER	Max Meth	12 Cleve Street MANSFIELD PARK 5012 (H) 45 6744 (W) 230 7181
SECRETARY & SAFETY and TRAINING	Peter Kraehenbuehl	5 Reed Avenue MANNUM 5238 (H) (085) 69 1980
RECORDS	Stan Flavel	Murray Road INGLEWOOD 5133 (H) 380 5404
LIBRARIAN	Bill Parker	1 Anderson Street FULLARTON 5063 (H) 79 1013
MEMBERSHIP LIAISON	Sue Asche	11 Welby Avenue SALISBURY EAST 5109 (H) 250 9545 (W) 336 3900
ASF REPRESENTATIVE	Mac McDonald	127 Seventh Avenue JOSLIN 5070 (H) 42 3911

POSTAL ADDRESS: Cave Exploration Group (S.A.)
P.O. Box 144
Rundle Mall
ADELAIDE South Australia 5000

CONTENTS

Volume 33 No 3 December 1988

	Page
EDITORIAL	41
TRIP REPORTS	
Flinders Ranges	42
Tasmania	43
Skyhook Pot (rigging)	45
Adelaide Hills	45
Corra Lynn	47
River Murray - Punyelroo	47
TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES	
Membership Report	48
Annual Dinner & Annual General Meeting	48
Newsletter	49
Fees - 1989	49
Training tit-bits	49
Cave names	50
Self-lining	51
PROGRAMME	53

COVER Surveying the *Magic Cave* – Peter Horne

DEADLINE for articles for Vol 34 No 1 is Wednesday 22nd February 1989.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Exploration Group (S Australia) Inc. nor its Committee.

Registered by Australia Post, Publication SBH 1658

EDITORIAL

We read in the daily papers where Queensland Cement Limited have moved in and destroyed Speaking Tube Hole at Mt. Etna. The cave, a non renewable resource, was home to the Ghost Bat. What has that to do with us? you might ask. The Ghost Bat's range once extended through South Australia but with the pressures of advancing civilisation its suitable habitat is slowly shrinking. This bat has not been caught in this State by Europeans.

The mining company and conservationists argue and produce conflicting findings concerning its habitat. Perhaps in all the debate and turmoil let us not lose sight of what must surely be a prime aim of conservation - the preservation of the resource for all to use, both now and for the future. All should include mankind and other species. Destruction of the resource for short term profit will not help when we all have no where to live. If we put bloody-mindedness aside we should find resources that will satisfy the demand and still conserve the environment.

Governments must be prepared to forgo expensive self aggrandisement programmes and put something back into the community so all may have a better quality of life. Management authorities should not forget they have been entrusted with the responsibility to conserve our heritage for this and future generations.

When money is tight it is easy to say user pays, but what is the unseen cost? - the cost to future generations. What we destroy through greed or ignorance in a short time takes a much longer time to replace. Either we want to conserve what we have or we get what we can out of it. As grandma would say – “You can not have your cake and eat it”.

Caves are a valuable scientific resource of flora, fauna and geology, much of which we know little about. They also can provide a valuable tourist, recreational and educational resource in both the developed and undeveloped state.

Take only photographs, leave nothing but footprints - not receipts.

To all members, their families and Newsletter Subscribers I extend best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a safe New Year.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

FLINDERS RANGES

23 April, 1988

Party: Peter KRAEHENBUEHL, David TREHEARNE, Paul WELLENS (SCG), Mark THISTLETON, Darren CRAWFORD, Ivan RILEY, Michael and Graham WOODWARD (surface crew).

Cave visited: F9.

I first read about Wooltana Cave in 1984 in CEGSA's Occasional Paper No. 6. "Gear: 70m ladder" To someone who had only known Naracoorte drops of 15-20 m this sounded horrendous, but interesting!

Where were we going to get enough ladders and what about a safety rope?

Meanwhile Wooltana had been dismissed as a bad joke until..... "David what about a SRT trip to Wooltana? Tap, tap, tap. A rebelay here, a rebelay there no worries, or so we thought!

We finally met up with the brave adventurers on Saturday morning and located the cave easily. A piton (dodgy at that!) plus cable traces around boulders provided an intricate but adequate belay. David (we won't need to take friends!) rigged to my comments of "a No.1 would have gone well here!", "look at the No.2 friend pocket here"!

I had to give these comments up after a while as I considered the alternative method of reaching Adelaide other than in David's Hilux! (not a pretty prospect).

We rigged two 50m ropes so David and I could 'check-out' the 'vertical bit' and rig the cave. Suspect looking rock meant a rebelay was placed a bit 'off-line' but at a good stance. Then the 'biscuit-layer' started. I desperately looked for ways to avoid it, only to have David knock a few sizable 'crumbs' in my direction from the other rope.

Our hope of rigging rebelay and having 2-3 people on the pitch at a time was shattered - a bolt redirection on the non-biscuit side of the shaft about 5-10 m down from the rebelay helped to reduce the 'biscuit-shower'. A second bolt redirection placed further down the shaft using the 'human bolting platform' technique, and we had reached the end of our 50m ropes to what we thought we could see as the bottom of the shaft. Natural protection/redirection belay points were either non existent or totally in the wrong places to be used effectively.

David and I prusiked out having spent about 4 hours in our harnesses (ouch!). Even 'comfortable' Chouinard Bod harnesses hurt after this amount of time.

Darren was next in to check out our handiwork and to bottom the cave. To our surprise, the 'bottom' David and I saw turned out to be a nasty rub point and a further sloping wall to the bottom of the cave.

Despite the efforts of the morning the cave still ended up being rigged using I.R.T. (indestructible rope techniques).

At the base of the pitch the chamber was huge and littered with old newspapers and other refuse from the days when the cave was mined for bat guano. We quickly learnt that in the 30's poisons built up in your body, which wasn't your fault, but your Mum could fix you with laxettes (in the original tin). For some of the group the 50m vertical shaft was just as effective; especially when served with biscuits.

We also found several mummified specimens of the Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) scattered on the floor of the cave. I took photos of one particularly well preserved bat to prove we had actually been to the bottom.

One by one we started the prusik out. To those of us at the bottom the buzz and whine of rock showers heading towards us kept the mind (and body) active. De-rigging on the way out was straight forward until the drag of the rope at the rebelay, which caused many expletives to be heard in the entrance.

David and Peter are planning a trip early in 1989 to place fixed hangers on all the 10mm terriers and to 'tag' these with reflective tape to make them locatable for further trips.

A top drop, pity about the rock!!

Peter Kraehenbuehl

TASMANIA

September, 1988

THE ALMOST SKYHOOK POT - MINI MARTIN EXCHANGE SHOW

What a circus!

The players:

In the IB 8 corner: David TREHEARNE (ring leader), Darren CRAWFORD, Ivan RILEY, Mark THISTLETON

In the IB 34 corner: Peter KRAEHENBUEHL (top cat), Alan JEVONS, Graham WOODWARD, Michael WOODWARD (surface correspondent)

It looked good on paper, it even sounded good - "... imaginative and interesting rigging." - that was my style, and from all accounts a laxative replacement drop. (definitely David's style).

Having sought permission the day before to park at the saddle above Benders Quarry we made an earlyish start (for once), only to be told of pending car redecorating from blasting that afternoon if we left the cars where they were.

Thus the circus began.

Graham and Michael moved the Hiluxs to comparative safety while the troupe continued to the entrances.

Skyhook Pot started easily, a tie off to a tree then over the log jam, wrap a long trace around a rock spike to rebelay and onto pitch 2. Damn, the '25m?' CEGSA rope wasn't long enough, tie in the next 50m.

Then I have to get "imaginative" - a bit less gear from the tackle bag and a bit less mud in the cracks and it's down to pitch 3. I search desperately for the promised piton rebelay - then I found it - three piton scars in a mud filled horizontal.

Blomp, Blomp, Blomp - a bit suss this placement - try the wriggle test - not a bit suss - A LOT! Try elsewhere in the crack, Blomp, Blomp, Blomp - bugged this! A quick check of the rock below the lip gave better prospects, an 8mm terrier would free-hang to the boulders below.

Tap-turn, Tap-turn, I rebelayed and waited for the next rope from Alan. A bag exchange, another knot and it's time to visit the **Grim Reaper Memorial Bowling Alley**. Clunk, Clunk, Clunk, pause BANG! - The boys on Mini Martin are sh...ing themselves as they can hear every rock being dispatched, but can't work out where the rocks are going!

Down to the bolt on pitch 4, I fuss around looking for back-ups amongst the chossy rock and decide that Alan has had a gut-full of being stationary on the rope. A rebelay and an abseil later and I'm off the rope!

I call Alan on thinking he has got the rope bag from Graham. More mud removal and three friends later, I'm ready to get going. 'Alan, you got the rope?' 'No, Graham's got it'. Blast! Graham's having an epic negotiating the obstacle course I've left for him. Alan and I wait almost patiently, freezing our bit's off. Eventually I've got the rope bag. (Mars Bars!, Spare Jumper!, ROPE!) I'm gone, I leave Alan to wait for Graham while I go visit the Mini Martin boys.

A cheese roll at the bottom and we send Graham up Mini Martin. The exchange idea is abandoned and Ivan helps Alan and I de-rig. I've been a bit skimpy on the rope at the pitch 4 rebelay and Alan manages to put his foot ascender out of reach. Up I go - the cold on the pitch 4 waiting game has taken its toll. I snail up to Alan and free his ascender.

Playing 'fly on the wall' at the bolt I watched the others do 'Bouncy-bouncies' on the 110 m pitch across the shaft. Ivan 'leap-frogs' me at the base of pitch 3 and I finish the de-rigging.

The others have sought refuge at the cars, but David has some 'good?' news for me. 'Graham's still on the 110m pitch and having hassles.' It's getting late and I'm swearing badly. After a while the hassles are sorted out and we haul the ropes up from Mini Martin.

My body spits the dummy, so two packs are left for me to collect the following day - I'm in go-to sleep-mode.

A slow walk back along the track and we are greeted with hot soup and bread from our surface correspondent.

The circus draws to a close.

Peter Kraehenbuehl

SKYHOOK POT (IB 34)

Rigging details 1/10/88

- P1 - 14m Tree at entrance, rebelay on a rock spike in the entrance. (6m trace) 25m rope was a fraction short for this.
- P2 - 28m Tie-back to P1, re-anchor above the pitch. 1 large angle piton (smaller one may have been better! # 6 stopper. 3/4 HB friend. A rope protector at the lip.
- P3 - 20m Rebelay to 8mm terrier (hanger required). The bolt is just below the lip on the right. It gives a good rope hang to the start of the rock strewn slope.
- P3.5 The 'non-pitch'. This is the rock strewn 'link' between P3 and P4. Stay on the rope and try not to go bowling! A couple of protectors could be useful if you're fussy.
- P4 - 47m Rebelay to 8mm terrier at the lip. Rolan Eberhard backed this up with pitons, Speleo Spiel 222. (I don't know where!) Another bolt to make this a 'V' belay would provide peace of mind! Hanger required on the bolt which is on the right above the shaft.
- P5 - 11m Excavate the mud out of the cracks to provide good friend placements. #1.5, 2, 2.5 friends in cracks or flare pockets!
- P6 - 8m Near the bottom of P5 is a large rock horn/thread. 6m trace around this then 25m of rope to use as a 'hand line' for the freeclimb.

The pitch lengths quoted are from Speleo Spiel No. 222 p.6. The 'non-pitch' is about 20m to the bolt on P4.

Peter Kraehenbuehl

ADELAIDE HILLS

22 October, 1988

Party: Kevin MOTT, Tim McKAY, Gareth EVANS, Simon YOUNG,
 Gary SCHWARZ, Nigel DOBSON

Caves visited: A4, A5, A6, A7, A13

This trip was planned to introduce members to caves close to Adelaide. Research prior to the trip revealed that virtually nothing was known about these caves. Records contained no locations or descriptions or record of the first visit by CEGSA. Just because a cave is close to Adelaide it is no excuse not to place the information in Records. By the time someone else wants to visit the cave you may no longer be around to provide the information.

On the way down we stopped at Sellicks Hill to look at the entrances to A5, A6 and A7. Whoever visited A5 last did not lock the cave properly. The padlock must be positioned up against the lid of the gate so it can not be turned down and thus cut with a hacksaw. It takes a few minutes longer but time is not of the essence and a little care will prevent unnecessary replacement of locks. A5 caught the imagination of those on the trip and they're now eager to gain some more experience so they can visit the cave.

We then continued on to Second Valley and, just for the record, actually bypassed the Myponga bakery. The last time I visited A13 was when we were doing research for OP5 so I needed a few minutes to get reoriented.

The caves are in the township of Randalsea in Second Valley; the township of Second Valley actually being on the coast. The limestone is cut by the Parananacooka Creek with the caves on the north-eastern side of the creek where the alluvium deposits meet the limestone. The biggest cave we could find was 8m long and, surprisingly, relatively dry. A collapse 100m uphill to the north-east is one of two indicated on a geological map in Dept Mines Mining Review No 113 p.103 and looks interesting. It would be a lot of digging though. The area has recently been subdivided so the caves were tied in to cadastral boundaries to determine the actual ownership.

Members visiting the area are advised to make their presence known to the locals as they utilise the water from the local springs and don't like anyone interfering with or mucking up their water supply.

We had lunch at Second Valley and judging by the speed of the service they had to find the cow to get the meat for the pies. Following lunch we proceeded to Salt Creek Cave.

The first stop was the owner's house, behind the Pig and Whistle Gallery on the Yankalilla - Cape Jervis Road, to collect the key. The location we had plotted on the topological sheet was confirmed as the location of A4 by the owners. Armed with further instructions we set out for the cave.

We followed the tracks and parked adjacent to a newly planted woodlot. From here we followed a bulldozed track (in a state of disrepair) south-westerly down to the coast. From where we parked the track we drove in on could be extrapolated right to the cave, one kilometre away. The track we were taking headed away from the cave, reached the coast after a kilometre, then entailed a two kilometre "stroll" along goat tracks to the cave.

A4 consists of two separate passages on different levels. The lower passage is 16m long x 2.5m wide at the entrance. Roof height at the entrance is 0.8m, reaching a maximum of 1.8m inside. At the end the passage tapers down to nothing. The floor of the passage consists of the same flat rounded pebbles as is found on the beaches in the area. A mound of these pebbles partially obscures the entrance. Although about 3m above sea level this passage would be inundated by the sea at periods of high seas.

The second passage is 7m higher. From the 5x3m entrance one descends 3.5m down a talus slope to the cave floor which is similar to the dusty floors of some Flinders caves. From the base of the talus slope the floor gently slopes up. At 27m in it is 2m above the base of the talus slope with the passage being horizontal for a further 13m. A small dig has been started in the end. Decoration abounds in this passage. In both passages the roof dips to the south-east at about 20°. A map of the cave was produced. A reference in Records states the passage bifurcates. If it does we certainly didn't find it.

No-one relished the thought of negotiating the goat track back when the direct route was much shorter, albeit a little steeper. The cliffs are 150m high. A razorback ridge accessed from a short gully seemed the best prospect. Apart from the bands of crud it wasn't too bad a climb; a little exposed though. When we reached the top we suddenly encountered the full brunt of the wind. One could virtually lean out over the edge in the wind it was so strong.

On returning the key the owner was surprised we were back so early. They obviously don't use the short cut. While there we inquired about A10. There are no sinkholes in the area but Stockyard Creek disappears underground and reappears several times east of the Delamere Uniting Church. Dams in that area often empty overnight during summer. The name Delamere Sinkholes should not be used for A10 as the feature is more likely to be an influx. The area to search has been narrowed down for a future visit.

The area may not produce caves with lemonade waterfalls but it is an under-rated area easily accessible from Adelaide. Not a lot of hard physical caving was done but we enjoyed what we did and learnt more about the area.

Kevin Mott

CORRA LYNN - 5Y1

2 October, 1988

Party: Graham & Charni PILKINGTON, Max METH, and Mark SEFTON

Once more into the dungeons of doom. Mac McDonald and family came with us to the portal but lack of time prevented us all ascending. Mac and co went back to tour some more accessible places.

In our bid to escape from civilisation we went to the end of **The Freeway**. A quick 20m survey completed the mapping and we had little excuse left for not tackling the **Gluck**. In our bid for martyrdom we mapped 165m including a surprise passage that came back over the **Gluck**.

Only another km or so to map - but access to the cave is now restricted. What a good excuse for taking it easy! I started mapping Corra Lynn to help Ian Lewis back in '73 who had decided to complete the survey of Sexton begun in '59. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun?

Graham PILKINGTON

RIVER MURRAY - Punyelroo (5M1)

6 November, 1988

Party: Graham & Roger PILKINGTON, Mark SEFTON, Gareth EVANS, Nigel DOBSON, and Amanda FERRARO

The planned trip on the 5th was delayed a day so some of us could visit an annually occurring cave in the heart of Adelaide. Roger managed to get lost in the cave and a search and rescue was effected to locate him. He was finally found in the cave rangers head office.

Nigel and Gareth were the survey trainees. Mark and I tried to impart some of our experiences on them by explaining what to do, and why, followed by a survey of a small side tunnel near the log junction in Punyelroo. It was very slow going in the constricted tunnel. To make it even slower the tunnel reduced to nearly negotiable size with a breeze. It took 2 hours to progress 8m before time-out was called. We never did complete the side branch back to the main tunnel. Must leave something for others to do is what I say (that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it - after all the cave stuck to me didn't it?).

Graham PILKINGTON

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to these new Associates in 1988

8819 **Chris HASSIOTIS**
12 Commercial Street
ROBERTSTOWN 5381
(H) 085 81 7140 (W) 085 81 7127

8820 **Steve McSHANE**
5 Nanette Road
VALLEY VIEW 5093
(H) 263 8953 (W) 266 1666

Nigel DOBSON
8A Morcombe Street
STEPNEY 5069
(H) 42 3901

Welcome to these new Associates in 1989

8901 **Helena UNGER**
8 Pope Crescent
HOPE VALLEY 5090
(H) 396 1166

8902 **Rob MAY**
21 Erskine Street
GOODWOOD 5034
(H) 271 4242 (W) 267 3255

Change of address

8502 **Sue ASCHE**
11 Welby Avenue
SALISBURY EAST 5109
(H) 250 9545

ANNUAL DINNER & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WHEN Friday 10 February 1989 at 7:00pm
WHERE Stag Hotel - Corner Rundle Street and East Terrace, Adelaide

This is the premier social event of CEGSA where exploits of the past year are relived and awards for bravery and excellence are presented. You never know - one of these awards just may be coming your way. **Be there.**

The **AGM** will be held in conjunction with the Annual Dinner.

- Presentation of the Annual Report
- Election of Officers

This is a vital function of the group. All Full Members are seriously urged to nominate themselves or somebody else for Committee. Help ease the work of your fellow members.

NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is the **last** of the **three** issues in this volume. There are usually four. Hence we will bring the newsletter into line with our financial year. The issues will still be published in the same months, except that new volumes will now start in March and appear as follows.

No 1	March	No 3	September
No 2	June	No 4	December

FEES - 1989

Fees for 1989 fall due on **1 January 1989**. Remember only financial members can vote at the AGM. Pay **NOW** so you don't forget later.

Full Member	\$31.00 (including ASF Levy)
Long term Associate	\$19.00
Associate	\$12.00
Family membership	add \$12.00
Reduction for Country Full	\$4.00
ASF Levy	\$12.00
Newsletter (subscription)	\$12.00 plus overseas postage

TRAINING TIT-BITS

This issue I've included an article on **self-lining** techniques for laddering. This is a useful technique for cavers using ladders to prevent the "double-rope" needed for traditional ladder belaying. It also serves as a good technique preparation for those interested in SRT. The gear is essentially a Frog rig without the primary (foot) ascender attachments.

Recently several members have made enquiries about ascenders for self-lining and SRT. I would recommend that members don't buy a pair of Jumars or other handled ascenders but rather buy a chest ascender eg. Petzl Croll, CMI Shorti or the shorter SRT ascenders and one handled ascender eg. Petzl expedition, Jumar etc.

If a supplier says you can only buy them in pairs, try somewhere else, because a Frog rig is more efficient with a shorter ascender on the chest. If any member is thinking of buying ascenders, speak to David Trehearne or me for advice; we're both gear freaks (we own four ascenders each).

At Last! the trip you've all been waiting for - a gear Freak's paradise.
Competent Caver / Party Leader course - a joint CEGSA / Scout Caving Group course for those who wish to learn how to rig caves safely and improve their skills in cave trip planning.

The dates are Tuesday 7th March (evening seminar),
 Sat/Sun 11/12th March at Naracoorte (skills weekend), and
 Sat 1st April (search techniques).

There are only 10 places available and all applicants must have been caving for at least 30 hours. For further details and bookings see - *Krunchy*

This course is recommended for all aspiring to Full Membership.

CAVE NAMES

The following cave names have been gazetted under the Geographical Names Act 1969-1982 and are recognised as the geographical name of the place. Note the spelling of some names.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>GAZETTE</u>
Arcoota Cave	F5	5-2-87 p.251
Bandoona Cave	F37	5-2-87 p.251
Biduna Blowhole	N116	5-2-87 p.251
Bildoolja Cave	N31	30-6-88 p.2061
Boars Cave	L26	29-10-87 p.1501
Bones Ponds	L265	12-3-87 p.622
Bunabie Blowhole	N21	30-6-88 p.2061
Catacombs, The	N20	2-10-86 p.1237
Collins Cave	L31	12-3-87 p.622
Dittiminkinna Cave		19-12-85 p.2127
Diprose Caves	N96-98	5-2-87 p.251
Disappointment Cave	N85	5-2-87 p.251
Drop Drop	L29	12-3-87 p.622
Ela Elap	L14	29-10-87 p.1501
Evans Caves		13-12-84 p.1836
Ewens Ponds	L159-161	12-3-87 p.622
Good Friday Caves	F6	5-2-87 p.251
Goulden Waterhole	L8	29-10-87 p.1501
Hells Hole	L40	12-3-87 p.622
Ivy Cave	N13	2-10-86 p.1237
Jimmies Cave	N23	5-2-87 p.251
Kilsby Hole	L46	29-10-87 p.1501
Knowerwinung - Kukwart Runaway Hole		19-12-85 p.2127
Knowles Cave	N22	2-10-87 p.1237
Koomoolooooka Cave	N6	30-6-88 p.2061
Koonalda Cave	N4	30-6-88 p.2061
Maxs Hole	L100	12-3-87 p.622
Mount Sims Caves	F7	5-2-87 p.251
Murrawijinie Caves	N7-9	2-10-86 p.1237
Palankarinna Cave		19-12-85 p.2127
Piccaninnie Blue Lake	L72	12-3-87 p.622
Piccaninnie Ponds	L72	12-3-87 p.622
Umpherstone Cave	L6	12-3-87 p.622
Warbla Cave	N1	30-6-88 p.2061
Weekes Cave	N15	30-6-88 p.2061
White Wells Cave	N14	2-10-86 p.1237
Wigunda Cave	N147	15-9-88 p.1100
Wooltana Cave	F9	21-8-86 p.607
Wurwurkooloo	L7	29-10-87 p.1501

Access to Corra Lynn Cave

This cave (and property) has been closed by the manager and permission to visit must now be sought via the CEGSA Committee.

SELF-LINING Peter Kraehenbuehl 1988

The use of a flexible cable ladder, a fixed static rope and a mechanical ascender as a self-belay is a technique known as self-lining. This is an alternative method of life lining a ladder pitch to the traditional life lining methods involving a belayer at the top of a pitch.

ADVANTAGES

- Quick on/off time at the ladder pitch,
- There is a good transfer of rigging techniques and equipment use from self lining to single rope techniques (SRT),
- Each party member is self reliant.

DISADVANTAGES

- Technique is gear intensive, that is, everybody requires a personal rig,
- Each caver must have a higher level of expertise in the use of the equipment than is expected for traditional life-lining.

In utilising self-lining techniques each caver has an abseiling device and a self-lining rig to use at the ladder pitch. Every party member abseils into the cave and ascends the ladder using the mechanical ascender as a safety on the fixed rope used for the abseil OR the party leader uses these techniques and uses a traditional belay for the majority of the party.

A typical self-lining rig is illustrated in Fig 1. Essential components are:

- Sit harness
- A mechanical ascender
- A chest harness or adjustable neck loop
- Twin cowstails (not illustrated)

Judson illustrates that the ascender should be placed on the side of a harness (presumably so that the rope doesn't "clutter" the ladder or the ascender catch on the rungs). These problems are minimised if the ascenders used are placed "flat" against the chest. (Fig 2)

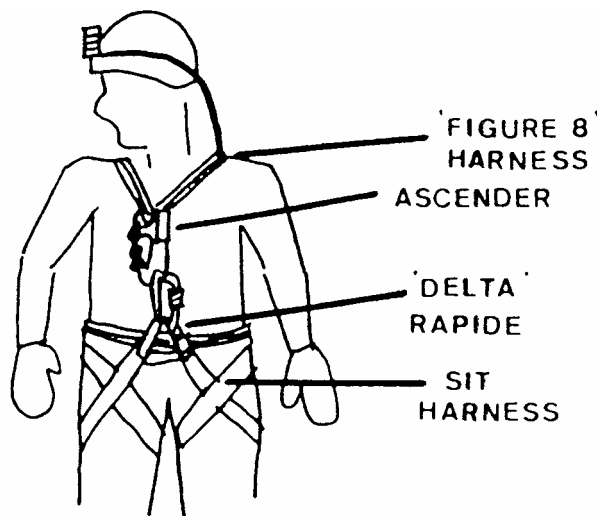


Fig 1 - Self lining Rig

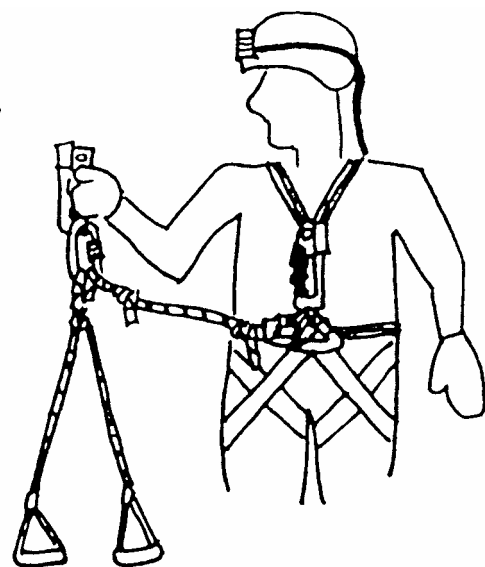


Fig 3 - Use of Ascenders

Using a chest ascender this way it is easy to convert a self-lining rig into an SRT rig by attaching the foot loop safety sling to the main harness attachment (preferably a delta rapide - Fig 3) Hence a caving rig can be developed which will serve both functions. Spring loaded ascenders (Jumars, Petzl, CMI and cam ascenders eg Gibbs, both work well; the advantage with a Gibbs is that it is reputed to take shock loads better, but it is much slower on/off the rope. The best ascender is the shorter type (CMI Shorti, Petzl Croll which is made as a chest ascender.

To use a self-lining rig attach the ascender to the rope, check all karabiner and adjustments, then climb the ladder as you would normally. If the ascender catches on the rope have a party member hold the rope for you or weight the rope by tying the excess into a coil which hangs off the ground. DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO HAVE A SLACK ROPE. This could cause a severe shock load to you and your anchors via your static rope should you fall.

Lyon recommends that a second ascender be carried so you could prusik up the rope alone if the ladder breaks or you swing away from the ladder, however an alternative suggested in Judson is more practical. Leave your descender attached to your harness via the main attachment point and if you do encounter trouble, sit in your harness and attach your descender close to your ascending device and lock the descender off, then wrap the rope firmly around a boot, or tie a clove hitch around it and stand on this boot to allow you to release the mechanical ascender. Abseil to the bottom of the pitch to ascend the rope or await a rescue. This method uses the gear which you had to carry to abseil into the cave in the first place.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that you practice any of these techniques in the daylight first, e.g. on a small cliff, before using them in the cave environment. Follow all manufacturers instructions when using new gear and preferably try to seek instruction from cavers competent in the techniques and/or do some further reading before attempting them yourself.

The use of twin cowtails as suggested in Lyon and Judson IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for the tops of pitches to save having to rig complicated safety lines. The use of twin cowtails is also essential for the graduation to SRT techniques involving rebelay.

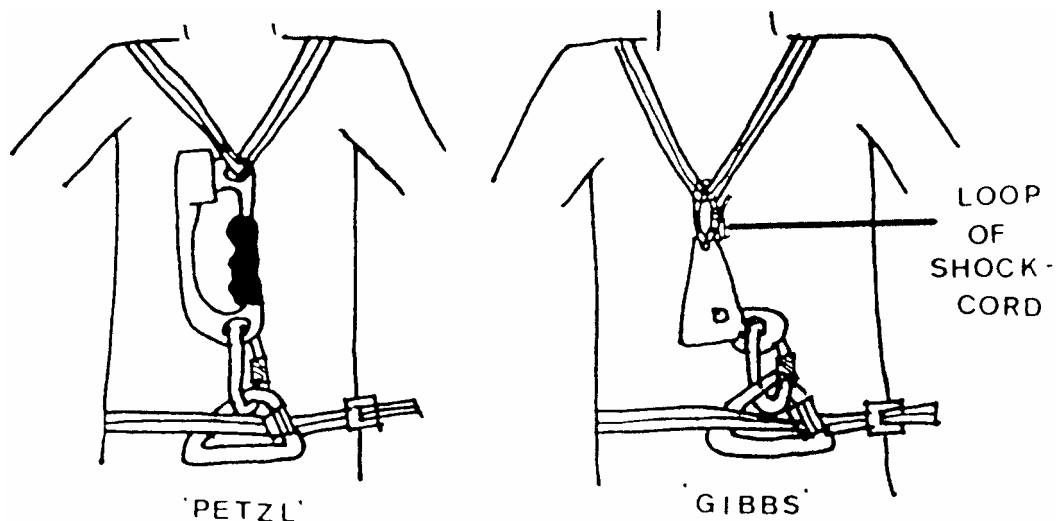


Fig 2 - Use of Ascenders

RECOMMENDED READING

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| JUDSON, D (Ed). (1984) | Caving Practice and Equipment - chapter 2.
BCRA David and Charles, London |
| LYON, B. (1983) | Venturing Underground; Ep Publishing Ltd, Yorkshire |
| MONTGOMERY, N. (1977) | Single Rope Techniques, SSS Occasional Paper No 7
Sydney Speleological Society, Broadway |

PROGRAMME

DECEMBER

3 – 4

8

COMMITTEE MEETING **7-30 pm**

3 Harcourt Rd, Payneham

10 – 11

16 – 13 Jan

Papa New Guinea Caves

Stan Flavel

24 - 25

27 – 31

TROPICON

31 – 2/1

JANUARY 1989

7 - 8

14 – 15

21 - 22

25

GENERAL MEETING **7-30 pm**

Members slides

28 – 30

South Coast

FEBRUARY

4 - 5

8

COMMITTEE MEETING **7-30 pm**

3 Harcourt Rd, Payneham

10

AGM & ANNUAL DINNER 7-00pm

Stag Hotel

11 – 12

18 - 19

Lower South East

Peter Kraehenbuehl

22

GENERAL MEETING **7-30 pm**

25 - 26

MARCH

4 - 5

7

Competent Caver Course: seminar

Scout Training Centre
Fisher Street, Norwood

8

COMMITTEE MEETING **7-30 pm**

11 – 12

Competent Caver Course: Naracoorte

Peter Kraehenbuehl

18 - 19

22

GENERAL MEETING **7-30 pm**

24 – 27

Mole Creek, Tasmania

Darren Crawford

APRIL

1

Competent Caver Course: searching

Peter Kraehenbuehl

Check with the Membership Liaison Officer for any additions or alterations.