

# **ACROSS THE ROAD CAVE**

by Jack Hissong (NSS 16422)

Across the Road Cave is across the road from the more popular Sinks of the Roundstone Cave. Most of the people who cave in this area, go to Sinks and do not even know this cave exists, so it does not get heavy traffic like its neighbor does.

It is a small cave with just over 1000 feet of passages in which to crawl and walk around. Most of it is walking passage, but the tallest ceiling is no more than 25 feet high. You will stay dry, since there is very little water anywhere in the cave.

Across the Road Cave makes a nice self-led trip if you are looking for a quick, easy trip. It is an easy cave to negotiate with only two exceptions: persons over 220 pounds will find the tight slot near the upper entrance narrow and difficult to get through, and the skylight entrance must be rigged to go in or out. You can see all mapped portions of the cave in less than two hours.

The lower entrance is the easiest to locate and enter. It is found at the end of a small valley. Four wheel drive vehicles can be parked right in front of it, but watch the deep hole and deep rut in the road going back. The upper entrance is on the hillside to the left as you walk back the small valley from the road. It is in a large shelter ledge near some prominent rock outcroppings. The trip from the upper entrance to lower entrance (or the reverse) can be traversed in less than an hour.

If you want a quick 20 minute vertical trip, you can rappel into the skylight entrance and go out the upper entrance. To locate the skylight entrance, go above the upper entrance and head southwest. The pit is a straight 30 feet down with a 7-8 foot diameter. It bells out slightly at the bottom and one lands on top of a long steep mud slope. Do not attempt to free climb this pit in either direction.

If climbing is your bag, the best this cave has to offer is the "window connect climbs", which complete a nice loop in the cave. If formations are your interest, don't miss the formation room that underlies the upper entrance.

If unexplored passages are your bag, then go to the "quit room" named for one of the surveyors attitudes after doing station A-22. The two passages that lead south from there are small and have not been pushed more than 50 feet each.