

The Smokey Cavern Chronicles Roll On (and on and on.....)

Better Caving Through Use of Automotive Maintenance Tools

Chemistry never even comes up to bat!

I was fed up with trying to find skinny people to help me survey the upper passages of the new-found Murphy's extension. Lets face it folks - while we have a lot of good cavers in this grotto and even some good surveyors, there are not a whole lot of them we can call thin, most rank up there in the healthy department, so even have been known to have been called ample (look who's drinking lite beer). So this rock in the crawlway on top of the pit John had climbed was definitely becoming a downer. I have seen some very red faces on the wrong side of the hole.

Lance had volunteered to turn one large rock into several (thousand) smaller ones with a little help from his friends at Dupont. We were not so sure this needed to happen as the rock was not secured down. A little irrestable force in the right places and we could work wonders.

Sunday April 1 Matt Rein, Bigbird, and I headed down to see what we could do. Geared up with the most fashionable of caving gear, crowbars, gloves, rope. A come-along secured from Matts trunk added the irrestable force. We moved slowly into the cave and started to set up at the lip.

The only thing we could find to secure the come-along to was another rock across the pit. It was going to be a race to see which would move first (my money was on whichever one would do the most bodily damage). So we set up ropes and applied pressure.

For the first couple of minutes the only thing we removed was the skin from my fingers, in various large sections. Then it started to move! Matt worked on the rock next with more success. He soon freed the rock and got it to the edge of the pit. Here we made the sudden decision that it would probably be bad (make that BAD) to drop a 400lb rock down a twenty foot pit with 15 foot of rope, the other end being tied to Jeff and I. We untied and tried to yank the rock over the edge with muscle. When this didn't work Jeff got his brains out from where he had been keeping them in his pants and used them instead. We soon made a very gratifying splash in the pool below.

So the westward border has been removed and the frontier is open to exploration! Any takers? Come on all you heathy cavers, we did this for you! HJK 20678