

Caving Gear

Quartermaster: Caleb Crubaugh



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Somerset , Kentucky

B.S. Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Possible PhD in Geomicrobiology

Over 100 cave trips

Passed over 200 rebelays

Caved in Mexico, East Africa, Kentucky, Texas, TAG, California

Not a dangerous caver!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

-Definitely crazy though



“Babe, you’re meeting my parents, put on your most expensive outfit”

Me:



Which is worse:

Reverse threading a rack

Or

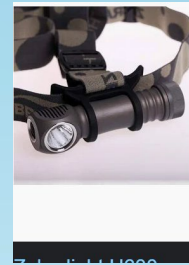
Falling on a hand ascender

Both will kill you



Basic Caving Needs

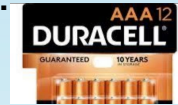
Get IP67 or IP68 rating



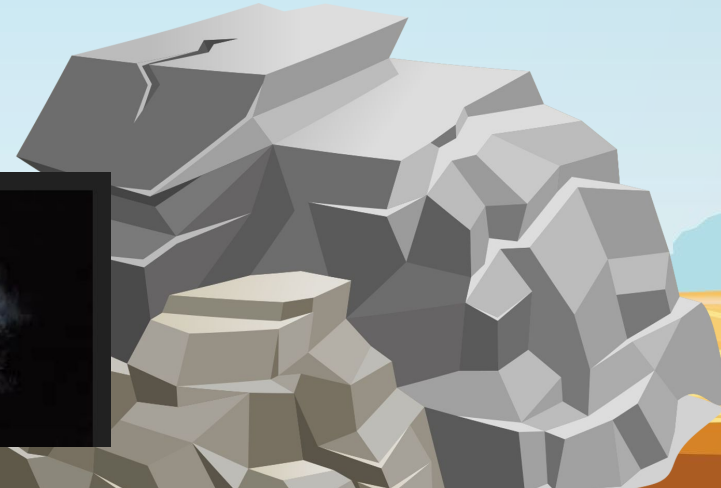
3 sources of light

- You should NEVER enter a cave without THREE sources of light
- Walmart lights are fine in dry caves, but upgrade to a fenix or zebralight before O-9 Well.
- Bring back up batteries.

Tell them your a caver and they may give you 20% off



18650 and 21700

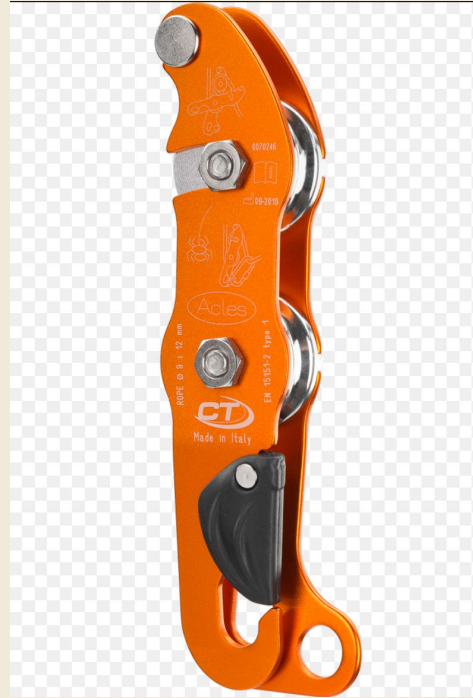


Which is better?

Rack



Bobbin



Or

Which is better?



Which is better?



Which is better?



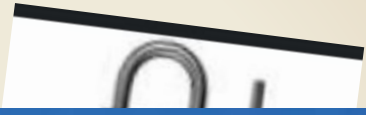
Which is better?



Which is better?



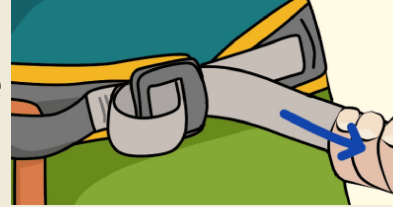
Which is better?



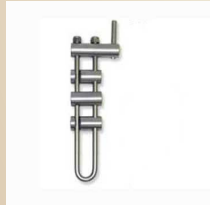
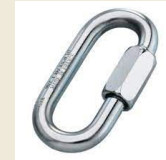
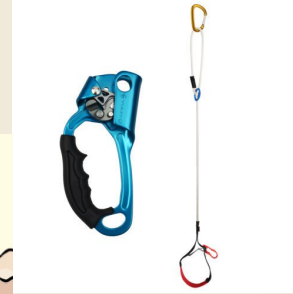
Vertical Gear

Should be set up as follows:

- Cavers Croll
- Reveal Rack
- Hidden Hand Ascender
- Chambers Cow's Tails



Double Back



DONT DO THIS!!!!!!

Caving Seniority

**What is the correct
vertical gear
orientation?**

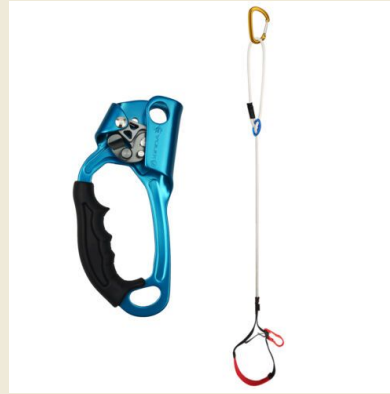
What is the correct vertical gear orientation?



Cavers



Reveal



Hidden



Chambers

Basic Caving Needs

Knee-Pads

- Crawling on bare rock can be exhausting and hard on your knees. Knee pads are a lifesaver and requirement for entering a cave.
- These need to be soft, no hard shelled! Those will damage the cave!
 - Think volleyball knee pads!
- Walmart
- Academy



Bag

- You'll need something to hold all of your things!
- Something durable that won't break during the trip
- Minimal zippers and hard pieces to minimize damage to the cave



Walmart kneepads are fine, but suck.
Dirty daves, Howitzer, crawldaddies are the best i've found

Cheap compression elbow pads seem the best or PMI.



Why do we get an NSS membership?

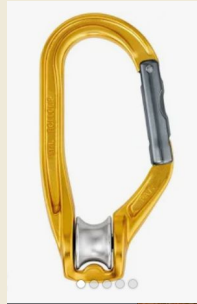
Why do we get an NSS membership?



Most large gear companies give pro deals and we get them just for having a \$20/year student membership.

Example: all black diamond gear is 30% off

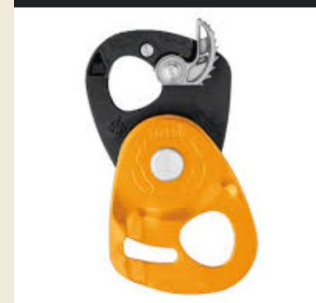
Rescue



Prusik Hitch



MICRO TRAXION



70% off Howitzer Knee Pads Discount!!!!!!!!!!



Basic Caving Needs

Water Source

- You'll get thirsty while caving!
- Plastic bottles only! No metal!



Pee Bottle

- Sometimes things happen, we never leave anything in a cave, so we bring a backup plan.
- These should have a screw top! You do not want pee in your bag or your friends!



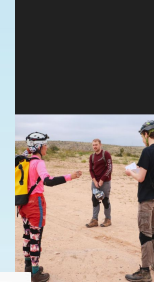
Shoes

- Good tread
- Ankle support
 - Recommended
- Something that will not fall apart in the cave!
- Sandals not allowed! No open toe shoes!
- A lot of us wear cheap hiking boots from academy!



Will get destroyed no matter what so go cheap.

Caving Outfit Examples



Kevin Liow

Helmets



Gloves

- Oils from our hands stain and damage the cave so it's best to wear gloves!
- Garden gloves are perfect for this!
- Walmart
- Academy
- Home Depot



Cave Snack

- We will stop once during the trip to eat snacks. Make sure you bring one of the listed items below as not all snacks are created equal in the caving world!
- Snacks with minimal crumbs and no juices!

- **Good**
 - Fruit snacks
 - Certain protein bars
 - pb&j sandwich
 - Gushers
 - Beef jerky
- **Bad**
 - Oranges
 - Go-gurt
 - Cereal
 - Pringles/Chips
 - Popcorn
 - Pickles
 - Granola bars



Clothing

- Needs to be synthetic material, durable, but old and cheap.

Coors Banquet



**Why/When do we
disinfect cave gear?**

Why/When do we disinfect cave gear?



WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME



- Disinfect soft gear with a hot water soak (washing machine)
- Hard gear with rubbing alcohol spray or clorox wipes
- More important when caving in different regions

Rigging



climb

cave

Rig

climb



Dynamic Rope

- Also called rigging rope
- Designed to stretch
- Best for rigging heavy limbs to allow for bounce should the branch fall



Static Rope

- Also called climbing rope
- Does not stretch or give
- Strength and stiffness best for ascending and descending



Rope pads



Anchors



Maillon for permanent rigging

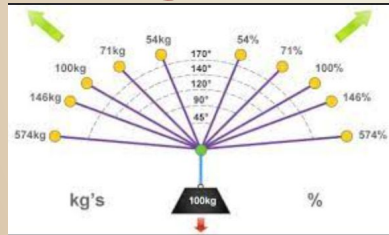


OPINION
MICHELLE COTTE

Is the Cure to Male Loneliness

Buying lots of cave gear

July 19, 2023



If you need to buy rope I know a guy
Hia name's Danger

What's the point?

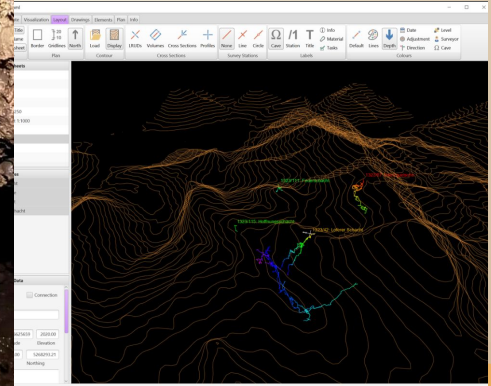
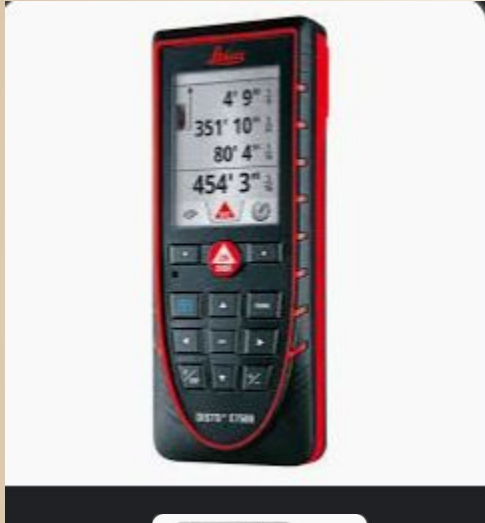




Survey



Charles B. Walker
Top Contributor · 4d · ©
Mud.. What mud? 🤔



Important Knots

Alpine Butterfly



Figure 8



Figure 8 follow through



Water knot



Double Figure 8



Stopper knot: whatever stops

Double overhand knot



Important Knots

Alpine Butterfly



Figure 8



Figure 8 follow through



Water knot



Double Figure 8



Stopper knot: whatever stops



not



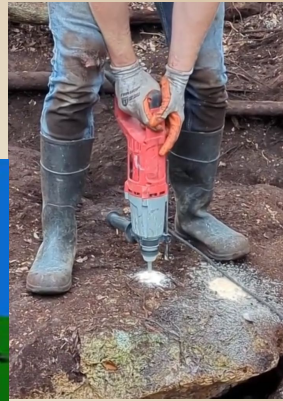
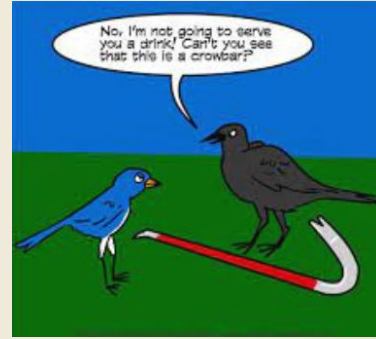
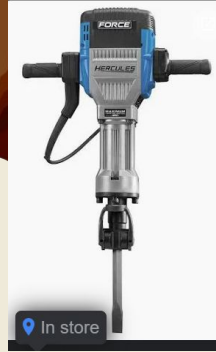
What is the best cave region?

What is the best cave region?



Kentucky!

Digging



“When I snort coke, it’ll be off one of these”



Bull Pin

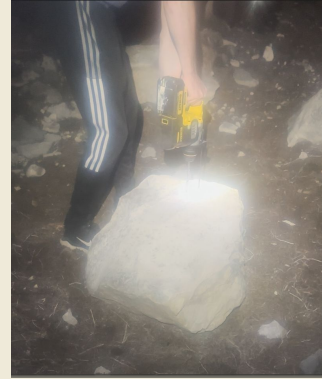


I think It goes!



ROCK!!!!!!!

Chemical Persuasion



We have the straws!



Trying to navigate Deep, Punkin, or Powells



Questions?

Stinker List

Bianca
Josie
Jakob ;(



Announcements





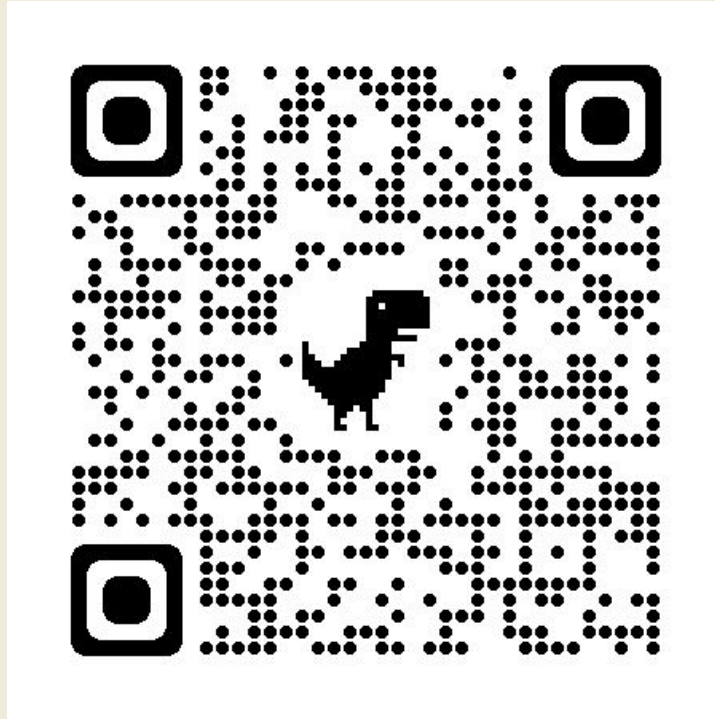
March 8, 2024

A.S.S. Social

Start 7:02 pm

End 11:17 pm

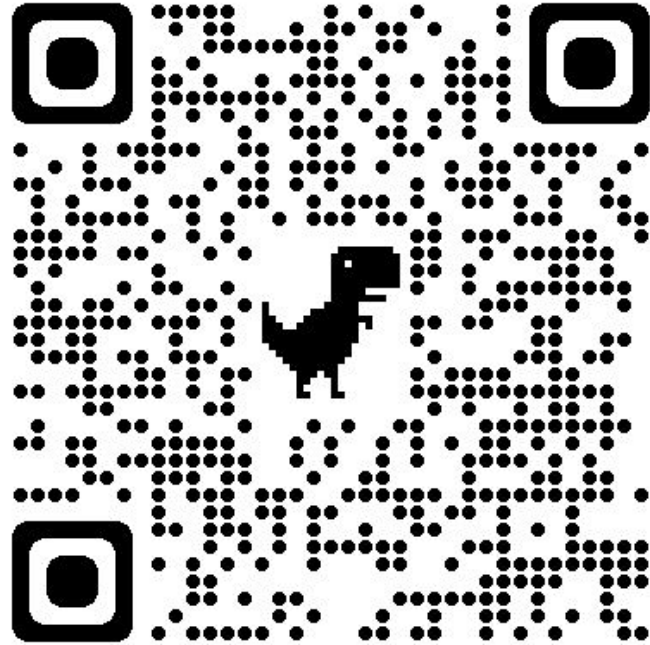
Deep and Punkin



M.H. Dig



Honey Creek



Education Table at Lick Creek Park





TAG & P.S. Stay After the Meeting

A.V. Rigging Principles

- ❖ Knots
 - Figure 8 on a bite
 - Figure 8 Follow Through
 - Alpine Butterfly
 - Water Knot
 - Barrel Knot
- ❖ Tensionless Rig
- ❖ Primary and Secondary Anchors
- ❖ Hand Lines
- ❖ Angles
 - 30, 90, 180
- ❖ Rigging to the weakest and stupidest member of your team

TAG

(before the second one)

- 1. Confirm Attendance**
- 2. Updated Spreadsheet**
- 3. Food Allergies**
- 4. Camping/Caving Equipment**
- 5. Driver Availability**

TAG MTG Next Week (middle one)

- 1. Things to do in TAG (Paige)**
- 2. Daily Plans from trip leaders**
- 3. Brainstorm group meals**
- 4. Confirm TAG drivers**

TAG MTG Next Next Week (The Final One)

- 1. Trip Participants Confirmed**
- 2. Last Minute Plan Tweaks**
- 3. Confirm group Meals**
- 4. Itinerary Confirmed**
- 5. Cars Confirmed**

March

9

Leave time 5:45 am