

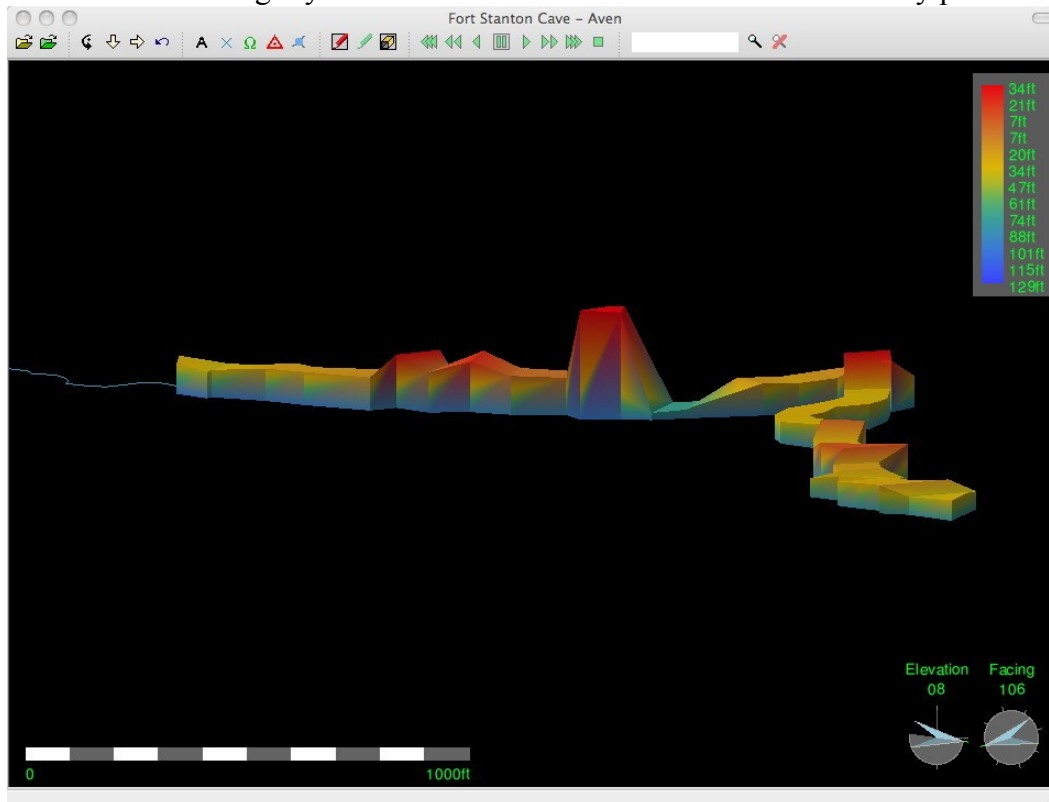


Hi all!

Happy Halloween! The one time of the year when everyone expects to see bats. Lets hope that we all continue to see plenty of them in the future.

During the September expedition, we were fortunate to have Dr. Carol Hill participate in one of the science trips into Snowy River. She has written a very interesting report on her findings. The report can be found on our website at <http://fscsp.org/Private/science/geology/index.html>. I encourage everyone to read it. We hope that she will continue to be involved with the FSCSP and continue to bring her expert analyses to the questions we raise about how this amazing cave has developed.

As you know, the special trip that was taken earlier this month beyond Eggshell Trail in Snowy River was quite a success. Jim Goodbar has written a report on that trip and at some point we'll have it on the website as well. I encourage everyone to read that report as well. The new passage explored by this team has been found to head southwest, then turn and head west and actually a little northwest, north of the airport boundary. The diagram below shows a perspective view of the new passage, looking at it from the northwest and slightly above. This is a screenshot from a cave survey processing program



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called Survex. Aven is the name of the display part of this program. The part of this view with solid walls is the newly surveyed 4200 feet of passage; the previously surveyed part of Snowy River South is seen as a line map coming in from the left of the screen. The high ceiling portion of the passage roughly in the center of the screen is where the upper level passage mentioned in Jim's report is located. John Corcoran is drafting the map for the new portion and hopes to have it finished in about a week.

Along with cave specialist Mike Bilbo, the FSCSP board of directors have been working feverishly for the last week on applying for an NLCS (National Landscape Conservation System) Science Grant. The NLCS is the administrative designation that BLM has for the National Conservation Areas (including the Fort Stanton – Snowy River NCA). We think we've got a pretty strong application worked out. What we are asking for in this grant is this:

- 1) Survey equipment – We want to have enough FSCSP owned equipment available for two teams to be able to operate at the same time.
- 2) Additional air flow monitoring equipment – We want to study the air flow patterns in more detail in Fort Stanton Cave and the other small caves.
- 3) Additional water level monitoring equipment – we still have significant questions about how and why Snowy River and the main corridor floods and we hope to address those questions.
- 4) Specialized photography equipment – The “precision” photo documentation process that Pete Lindsley has developed, in conjunction with Ron Lipinski's Caver Quest, requires specific gear (special lenses and tripod heads). We want to have enough of this so we can have two teams of photographers working independently.
- 5) Geophysical Support – We are trying to support our resistivity experts, John McLean and Lewis Land. Those who have helped John, know that there have been issues maintaining his equipment, and we want to support the purchase of cabling and reels. Lewis has problems with bringing his equipment because it requires a large vehicle or more than one vehicle just to get it to Fort Stanton. We'd like to support him by paying for the cost of transport of the equipment.
- 6) Finally, we want to help out the students that are involved with the scientific study of Fort Stanton Cave. Drs. Penny Boston and Diana Northup have done a fantastic job of turning on some of their students to cave related research and we want to help them out by providing grants to students who will do research at Fort Stanton Cave.

Finally, last but not least, recall that I have scheduled a short trip for November 11 – 13 to dig in Cactus Cave. Friday, November 11 is a federal holiday (Veteran's Day) so that some people may have that day off. To this point we have some interest in the trip, but still not enough people have signed up to make it work. We really need 8 people to make the dig effective. Let me know if you'd like to come. If we don't get enough people by Monday, November 7, I'll call the trip off (and let people know via e-mail).

Thanks again to all, for your support in the past, and for your continuing support in the future.

If you have any questions, let me know.

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