

Hauchuca's: *by Brett Cook*

Kristen Nielsen, Randy Waslien, Hank Boudiont, ET, Ed Coleman

The recent Ridge-Walk in Southern Arizona was attended by Gypsy Underground members Randy & Kristen, Hank and ET, Brett and new member Ed Coleman. We visited a very pretty cave with initials MG on Saturday. Then on Sunday, we hooked up with Ed and went ridge-walking in the canyon east of MG. The known caves in this canyon are in isolated chunks of "exotic" limestone and are close to a high-angle fault that runs up the canyon. We were checking to see if other areas of limestone near the same fault might also have caves. We covered two limestone belts in the upper end of the canyon and found a couple of small "cavelets". These two went back about 15' to a room and ended. The upper limestone belt nearly vertical and heavily jointed. We were able to spread out and cover that belt fairly well. The margins of the belt were clear and we also spent some time walking the contact. The western slope of the canyon was easiest to check, but we also checked the eastern slope as well as we could. The lower band was checked as well. The bedding in this belt is more horizontal and shows some low-amplitude compression waves where it nears the canyon bottom and the stream bed below is covered with calcium deposits and some travertine. Note that I'm not a geologist, and I'm describing things as best I can. My usage of the terminology may be a bit "loose". True geologists are always encouraged to come along. ;-). We did a bit of free-climbing on the eastern slope. We spotted small holes and cracks with water seeping out in several places. The upper section of this bed was fairly well covered with white stains where water had apparently seeped out in the past. We spotted a very large bird nest that was high up the face, but no openings. We've already decided on the next region to check; it's a junction of two fault contacts that intersect in the bottom of a high valley with a large water collection area. For more information or to join one of our walks, please contact me or Ed Coleman directly.

