

At the first rope, Alea, Laine, and Ian split off from the rest of the group and returned to the entrance breakdown room. We decided to push the remaining leads sequentially moving into the cave, and figured none of these would go very far.

We began with a small climbdown pit in the breakdown room. This turned into a toilet-bowl-like sloping climbdown into a canyon drop. We named the canyon "Meatball Falls" due to a large rock that Laine dislodged while traversing, much to the horror of everyone present.

Climbing down Meatball Falls put us in a breakdown room, beyond which we found a canyon which connected to the bottom of the first rope, tied at station B1.

After completing this survey, Ashley urged us to come and rejoin team 1, as they'd found a pit with borehole beyond it. The borehole turned out to be short-lived, but there were several promising leads. As everyone else went to survey a high lead toward another pit, Laine and Megan stayed to help Ian in an ill-advised attempt to aid climb into a high lead.

Using every footloop in the cave, a contraption involving a tibloc on his cowstail, and no belay, Ian got 1 bolt placement, a second hole drilled, and about 6 feet above the floor before deciding this lead would be better to save for another day when proper aiding gear was available.

As the group cleaned up from the climb, Alea came back from the high lead and informed us that the others had heard loud, distant booms and were turning back for fear of the cave taking water. We didn't put much stock in this assessment given that there was no increase in ceiling drips and that the floor was remaining quite dry despite being at a low level. Nonetheless, we were ready to go home and started out of the cave.

Upon surfacing we realized there had just been a storm outside. It was surmised that the booms heard in the cave may have been thunder from outside, and that team 1 was likely very near the surface and possibly another entrance when turning back.