

Fletcher Jones Pit and Canyon Cave

Fletcher Jones Pit and Canyon Cave, located in Jackson County Kentucky, is situated in one of the drainages of the Horse Lick Creek watershed. The cave entrance is at the contact of the Pennington formation and the upper member of the Newman limestone. It has little formations to speak of and show no signs of being hibernacula for bats. There are two entrances to the cave that connect through a karst window. The sink entrance sits on the low side of the hill and descends steeply to an area of large breakdown boulders. In this section the karst window is located and looks out over the pit about half way down its shaft. This was nicknamed "don't touch anything" due to the precariously positioned block. The pit entrance to the majority of the cave is just up from the sink. A small but easy squeeze opens quickly to a nice fifty foot rappel. About mid-way down is a large bolder that is part of a hanging collapse. DO NOT step or land on this, it's a hanging pile of death! At that level of the bolder you can look through the karst window to the other section of the cave and see the bottom of the sink entrance. Getting off rappel you can find cover along the opposite side of the pit. From here you can climb down into the canyon and head of into the main section of the cave. The cave is easy wading passage that splits a couple times. These passages end in domes with the exception of a tight lead at the back of the cave. There is also a small crawl that goes back towards the passage you just came through. You pop up in the passage out of a trench and it continues underneath bit more but ends.

Fletcher Jones Pit and Canyon Cave was named after Fletcher Jones, the land owner of the property that the cave lies on. He was well known around Rockcastle and Jackson Counties in Kentucky especially for the music jamborees he held at his cabin. He gave us his time and his hospitality to show the cavers the things about his land including the caves mapped recently.

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