

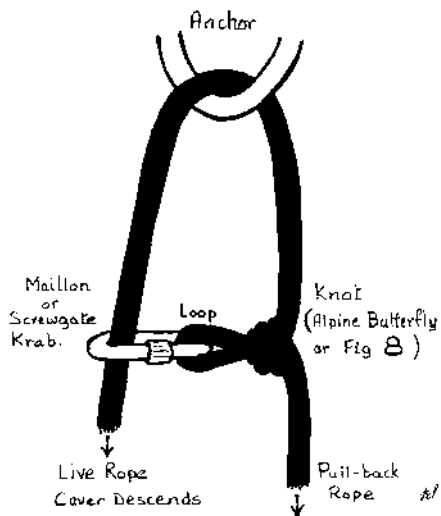
Giants Hole “Cable & Ring Y-Hang” Rig

Early in 2007 DCA installed a “Cable and Ring Y-hang” to allow safe rigging of the descent from the Upper Series into the Crabwalk and to overcome earlier problems caused by misuse of the existing pair of Eco-anchors (P-bolts). The Y-hang consists of heavy duty stainless steel cable as the “legs” of the Y-hang, linked to the existing P-bolts; the anchor point being a 12mm stainless steel ring with a diameter of 10cm which is free to rotate on the cable (to avoid excessive wear at any one point on the ring). The ring can be used for single or double rope descents or a pulley can be clipped onto it for life-lining. Because of the large diameter of the ring the knot of a single rope pull-back system can pass through the ring (unlike rigging through a maillon) - however this is perfectly normal, the system is safe and the pull-back operates correctly.

Note: When using the Y-hang as a single rope pull through, a screwgate karabiner, or preferably a 7mm or 8mm maillon, must be used. *On no account must a twistlock or straight karabiner without a locking mechanism be used as there is a potential for the rope to come out of the karabiner when it is side loaded and the knot is through the ring.*

Following some queries raised at the DCA Council Meeting on 23rd. June 2007, Boyd Potts and Dave Phillips of Orpheus C. C. made a visit to Giants to demonstrate how the rig works and to take photos of it in operation. Boyd’s notes and Dave’s photos follow below:

Sunday, 24th. June. Visit to Giants to check the stainless pull-thro’ system in situ. Checked using both short loop and long loop to attach the karabiner. The following photos show that it worked safely in all situations:



1. The standard single rope pull-back system. This works equally well rigged through a maillon, a ring or even over a scaffold pole. Note that the link between the loop and the “live” rope must be a maillon or a screw-gate karabiner (it may be possible for a non-screwgate karabiner to be forced open).

2. Fig. 8 knot with short loop. Tension in live rope. Knot locked onto ring and would not flip through. Pull-back operates correctly.



3. Same as 2 from pull-back rope side.



4. Fig. 8 knot with long loop before tensioning.

Giants Hole "Cable & Ring Y-Hang" Rig - Contd.



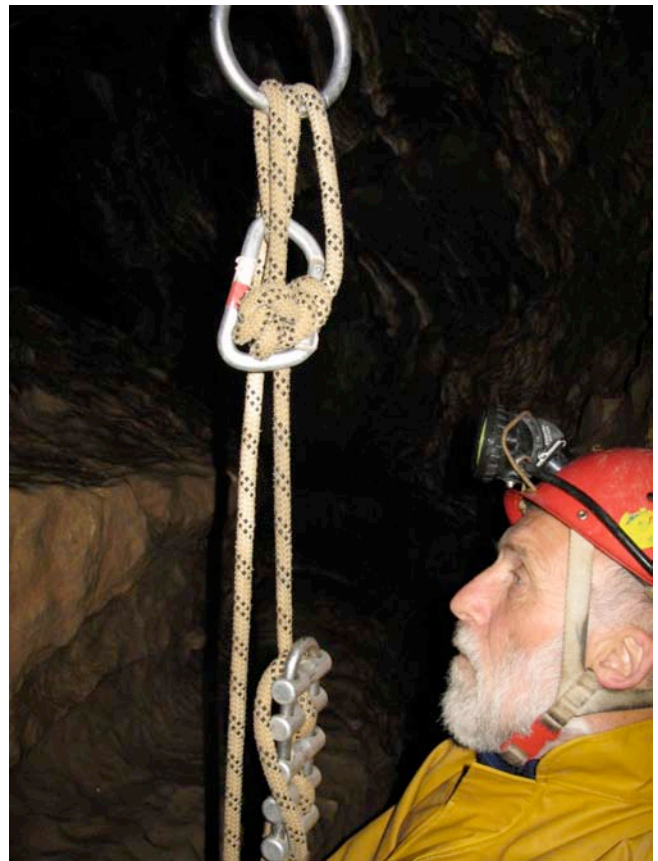
5. Fig.8 knot with long loop. Tension on live rope. Knot flipped through ring. Pull-back operates correctly.



6. Same as above from pull-back rope side.



7. Long loop. Knot fed through karabiner. Now locks in both directions, i.e. no pull-back !!!



8. Long loop knot flipped through ring, as in Fig.5 (above left). Caver's full weight on live rope. Works perfectly as a pull-back.