

GEAR REVIEW - CLIMBING TECHNOLOGY - ROLLNLOCK.

Chris Curtis.

Following on from the topic of pulleys (pages 281-284 in this issue of *JSSS*), more often than not, one of the critical parts of a pulley system is progress capture.

As the load is being hauled up, in a typically 3 to 1 system, there will be a reset of the system as the rope grab reaches the top pulley. There are many methods that can be used such as a Gri Gri, hand ascender, prussik cord, Tibloc, etc.

It is very common for serious vertical caves to take some sort of spare ascender, especially in muddy caves, because mud wears out an ascender very quickly. A Tibloc is often used as it is small, light and as above, can be used for progress capture. I have two Tiblocs and have found them to be quite handy. They don't work well with pulleys though (Photo 7).



Photo 7:
The Tibloc device.
Photo: *Chris Curtis.*

RollNLock: To fix the above problems I have a RollNLock (Photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). This device is a pulley and rope grab in one so it can be used in a haul system very easily. If used at the top of the haul system it becomes the top pulley and progress capture in one (Photo 8). If used for the hauling it can be used for the rope grab function only (Photo 9).

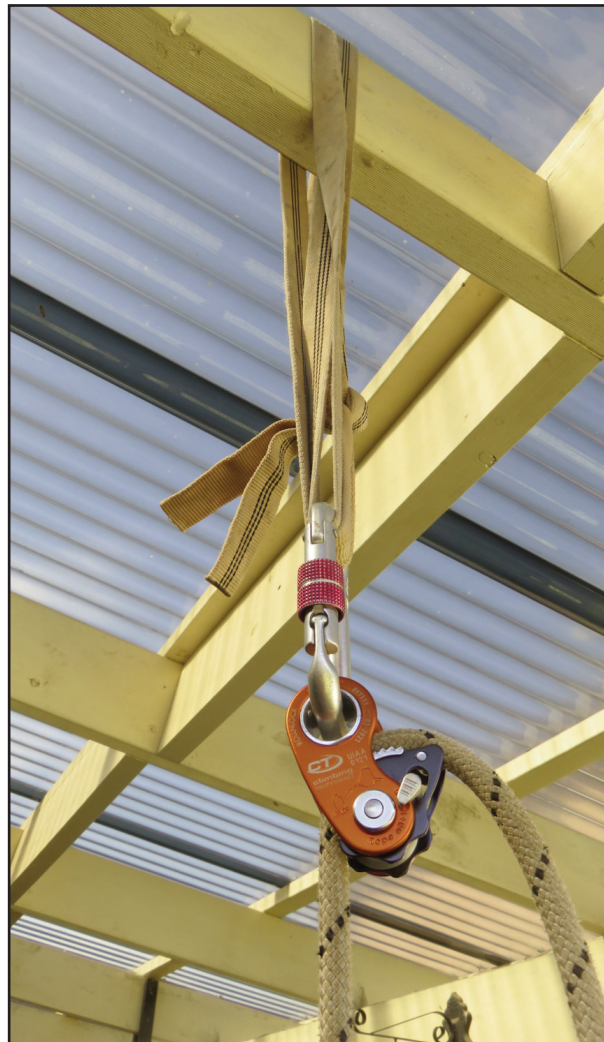


Photo 8:
The RollNLock device.
Photo: *Chris Curtis.*

The RollNLock can also be used as a spare ascender in you SRT kit, either as the hand ascender or the chest ascender. The only issue is it takes longer to pass a rebelay. I am really surprised at just how well it works as a chest ascender. When used as a chest ascender, it still progresses nicely up the rope on its own once there is about three metres of rope below it. The chest harness strap fits easily through the device to keep tension on it. (Photos 10, 11, 12).

The teeth on the cam are not like typical ascenders (shark teeth). It still has teeth, but they are straight cut, which means the cam is



Photo 1:
The RollNLock device.
Photo: Chris Curtis.



Photo 2:
The RollNLock device.
Photo: Chris Curtis.

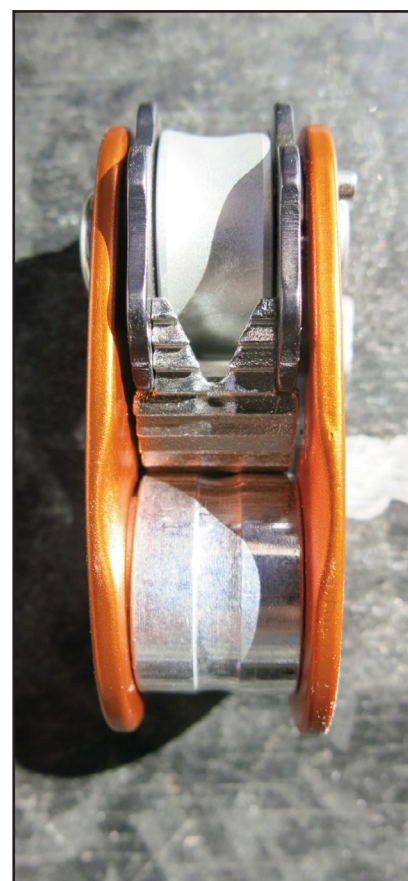


Photo 3:
The RollNLock device.
Photo: Chris Curtis.

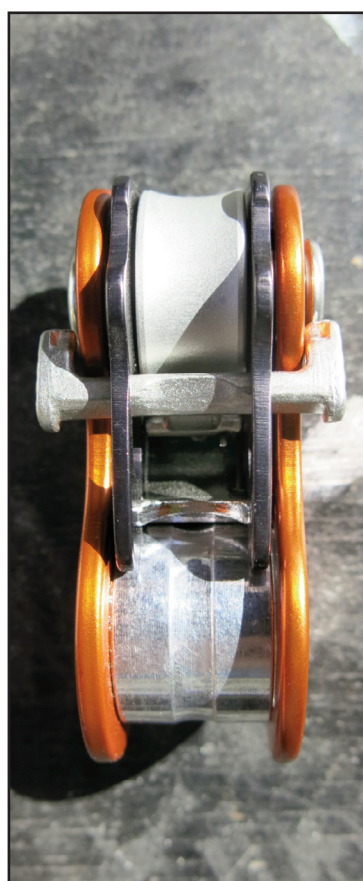


Photo 4:
The RollNLock device.
Photo: Chris Curtis.



Photo 5:
The RollNLock device.
Photo: Chris Curtis.
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Photo 6:
The RollNLock device.
Photo: Chris Curtis.
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Photo 9: The RollNLock device in use. **Photo:** *Chris Curtis.*



← **Photo 10:** The RollNLock device in use.
Photo: *Chris Curtis.*

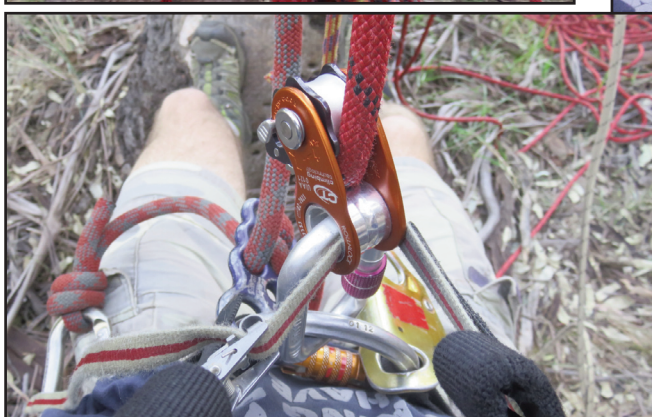


Photo 11: The RollNLock device in use.
Photo: *Chris Curtis.*

Photo 12: The RollNLock device in use.
Photo: *Chris Curtis.*



Photo 13: The RollNlock device.
Photo: Chris Curtis.

It does work better with an oval carabiner so it loads the side plates evenly and will help ensure correct alignment during use. Most carabiners will also fully rotate through the device, which is a big help.

The locking cam can be disengaged so it works as a pulley only when required. The locking cam has a small bar, which is repositioned to either engage or disengage the cam. A pull chord can be added if you want to make releasing the cam easier.

Pulley efficiency is 85%, which is comparable with many small stand-alone pulleys.



Photo 14: The RollNlock device in use.
Photo: Chris Curtis.

easier to release after loading (Photo 13). The device also works on webbing tape eight to sixteen millimetres wide.

I do a small amount of arbouring and have found it is great on an adjustable lanyard. So you can see it is a very useful device (Photos 14, 15).

It is very small and light at only eighty grams.



Photo 15: The RollNlock device in use.
Photo: Chris Curtis.

The device is easily set up on a rope for haul systems and will stay on the rope on its own until the carabiner is attached, so there is less chance of dropping it, something a Tibloc won't do (Photo 16).

The device is very easy to use and I absolutely love it. Online reviews are all very positive and in comparison reviews with other similar devices, the RollNLock is consistently one of the top choices, if not the top choice.



Photo 16: The RollNlock device in use. **Photo:** Chris Curtis.

If you are going to purchase a pulley, why not purchase one that has a progress feature built in and also provides a backup ascender for caving.

For full details on the RollNLock, check out the Climbing Technology website, <https://www.climbingtechnology.com/en/outdoor-en/pulleys-and-ascenders/pulleys-ascenders/rollnlock>.

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MONTHLY SSS WEBSITE REPORT - No. 168 (www.sss.org.au).

Gareth Halbert (SSS Webmaster).

Statistics for September, 2021.

Reporting period: 06/08/2021 to 07/09/2021. Total days this period: 31.

Total visits this period: 129. Unique Users: 111. Total pageviews this period: 187. Average visits per day: 4.16. Average time per visit: 0.59.

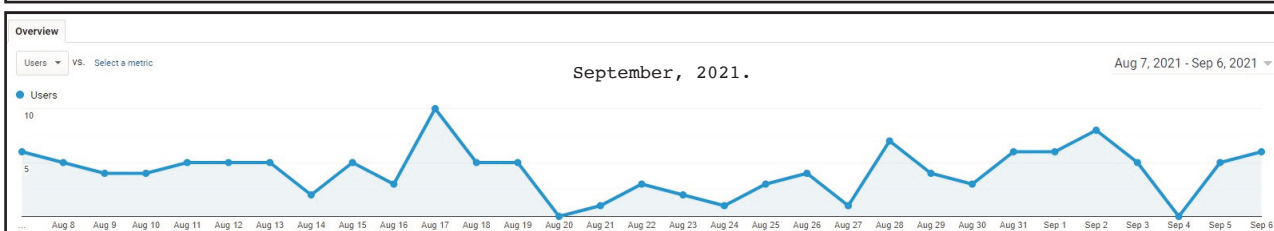
September, 2021 Report.

This month we have sold one *Men of Jenolan Caves*, three Family Memberships, one *Doing the Grand Canyon Blackheath*, one SSS Mug and one *Sandstone Caves of Mount Victoria*, all paid for online. Our daily visit numbers have dropped again this month down to 4.16 from 4.87 visits per day, last month. The average time for each visit has also fallen to under one minute, at 0:59, a decrease on last months 1:15.

Facebook likes are at 626 and followers are at 650 both up on last month.

Again our September SSS Committee Meeting was held via zoom and was well attended. (Photo 1).

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ANNOUNCEMENT

to members of The Sydney Speleological Society Inc.

Annual General Meeting of The Sydney Speleological Society Inc. 2020 - 2021
As notified in the August *SSS Journal* it is proposed to hold the Annual General Meeting of The Sydney Speleological Society Inc. on Thursday 30th, September, 2021.

This meeting will include the presentation of annual reports for the year 2019-2020 which was deferred due to an AGM not being held last year, as permitted by the NSW Government due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Reports for the 2020-2021 year will be presented as per normal and the overdue election of officers and honorary positions will be held.

The requirement to hold an AGM has not been waived this year. It is permitted to hold the meeting by electronic means in order to ensure members' safety.

Requirements of the NSW Government agency responsible may be viewed here. Accordingly the Annual General Meeting will be held by Zoom link-up starting at 8:00 pm on 30th September, 2021.

To participate you must be a current financial member of the Society. Please ensure you have paid your annual subscription via the membership renewal invoice previously issued to you if you have not done so already. If you have not received an invoice or have an enquiry to make concerning your membership please contact Mal Chandler, the Membership Secretary, at members@sss.org.au.

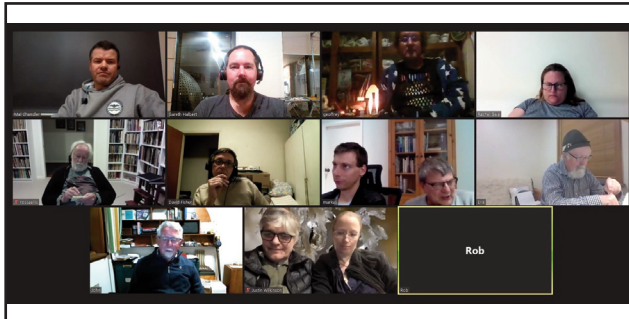


Photo 1: The September, 2021, Zoom SSS Committee Meeting.

Screen Grab: Gareth Halbert.

For more information contact info@sss.org.au.

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David Fisher.

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