

Session/Game: Starkpool-5 **Date:** January 5, 2024

Game 5: It Really Bugs Me

Campaign Date: March 26-27, YN 1025

Characters:

Captain Brynmor Swiftfoot, Man, Scout-4 (Quinton)

Blackwood Sam, Elf, Scout/MU-E-3 (Craig)

Zappo, Man, MU-L-4 (Bob)

Stumblr Rox, Man, Druid-4 (Andrew)

Hardrick the Cunning, Man, Fighting-Man-4 (NPC/Bob)

Roastbeef McQuaid, Man, Fighting-Man-4 (Pete/Andrew)

Stumptastic, Dwarf, Delver-4 (NPC/Craig)

Schlepper, Man, Delver-2 (NPC/Quinton)

Judge: Dave N.

PROLOGUE

Since the magical mists in the mountains have recently vanished, hope has arisen that the ancient paths through the mountains might open up the Land Unknown. Therefore, Council Wizard Perconto of Starkpool City's ruling *Guild of Mystic Knowledge* has engaged the adventuring company called the *Exploratores* to explore High Shadow Cave C11 in the hopes of finding a route.

Perconto discovered an ancient fragment of a Dwarfish journal that mentioned that the cavern entrance eventually led a traveler to The *Grand Gallery* which took him through the mountains, but was otherwise scanty in detail. Locating this Gallery is therefore Perconto's first goal.

Perconto has fronted the *Exploratores* 500gp in expedition expense money. If the company can create a map that leads from the cave entrance to the Grand Gallery and return it to Perconto, he offers a 4000gp payment.

LOG:

March 26, High Shadow Cave(C11), Entry Level

After spending a week in preparation and a day of travel from the city, The Exploratores reached the entrance of High Shadow Cave. Blackwood Sam noticed big hog droppings and a big cat paw print on the entry passage cobbles. They lined up and entered 2 by 2.

In a fancy, tiled and colonnaded entry chamber, they immediately spotted a pair of Mountain Lions, who seem alarmed but not immediately aggressive. Stumblr the Druid approached and tried to be friendly with Mt. Lions. The cats were having none of his vegan jerky and started to tear him to pieces. The company moved to rescue the druid, killing both pumas, but not before both Stumblr and Roastbeef McQuaid suffered several painful wounds.

While the rest of the team were treating the wounded, Stumptastic, Captain Swiftfoot and Blackwood Sam all scouted out the various natural cave-tunnels that exited from the entry chamber. Stumptastic heard the sounds of a group of wild hogs down a hallway north-east of the entry. After the first aid was finished and the scouts all returned, the company decided to attack the hogs. Zappo used a sleep spell to put three of the 6 hogs under. Roastbeef, Hardrick and Captain Swiftfoot engaged the remaining three hogs and killed them all.

After another round of scouting by the scouts and delver, they discovered a chamber with three pits in it. Each pit was 10 feet deep with wet walls. No one was inclined to search the pits any further. Having successfully recovered a gem from a previous pile of dungeon garbage, the company pack-hauler Schlepper searched another such pile, but was infected by a nasty disease.

The captain sent Stumptastic down a long southerly corridor to scout alone. He was ambushed by a Tiger Beetle, and fled back to the main body. The beetle proved very resilient and took an instant dislike to Stumblr, tearing him up and causing him to become incapacitated. Eventually, the beetle was slain without further casualties.

The company decided to withdraw above ground to their camp and rest for the night. Schlepper took a turn for the worse and died of the infection overnight. They made Stumblr comfortable, but he was so badly wrecked that it would likely be 4 weeks until he would be ready for action again.

March 27, High Shadow Cave (C11), Entry Level

The company (without Stumblr) returns to the cave and search around more of the tunnels. Roastbeef is injured by a handful of sharp nails in a pile of garbage he was searching but also finds 400cp in another pile. Stumptastic finds a brass coffer but is unable to open its lock. Swtiftwood does open the lock and finds 450gp inside.

Advancing alone along the northern most tunnel, heading west, Roastbeef is ambushed by 4 giant spiders. Hardrick tries to run to his aid, but is badly bitten on the foot and collapses from the venom. Roastbeef manages to resist the venom from two bites, but takes a really nasty gash, nearly toppling him. Zappo and Sam each throw a sleep spell, dropping all for spider. Since both fighting-men are in bad shape, the company withdraws to the surface,

The venomous wound on Hardrick's foot is so bad that they are forced to amputate it. Stumptastic whittles up a wooden foot for him. Hardrick and Roastbeef are so badly busted up that they decide to push the Owlbear punch hard, having a drinking contest. Roastbeef loses the contest, going blind after the third drink.

Since Roastbeef is blind, Stumblr is incapacitated and Schlepper is dead, the company decides to withdraw to Starkpool City to reequip and recruit to come back another day.

Stumblr Rok advances to level 5