

Then boldly we strode off into the unknown!

Unlike "pointless Pirana" this did not end in a black wall after 6 feet.

We were soon scrambling to overtake one another in the walking / crawling passage. It terminated after about ~~less~~ 50m in a muddy chamber, where the "stream" in the floor dissipated into a tiny hole that even Tim & Sean admitted was higher.

I guess this is a flood passing thru filled with muddy waters in spring, and the little "stream" in the floor is the last remains of the vanishing water.

We then looked at all the side passages, but lead uphill into regions where the roof / mud space got too small. The mud is very diggable - possibly a tunnel could be dug forward just under the roof.

Eventually we stopped running around like demented ferrets & found we had one lead left. This lead up into a boulder-roofed chamber, with a rubble slope & a great slope. I went up the rubble slope, found lots of nasty choked holes with drips coming in. I nearly died for myself coming back down, showering Tim & Sean with rocks & scaring the wits out of all of us. Especially me.

Tim had a look at the mud slope. One very real  
wonder. The other was UP!

We looked at our watches & were "home".

After a thanksgiving supper that couldn't be beat, & a  
sleep, we rose early at 1:30 pm, and left Nicolle  
to guard the camp against the determined ~~cut-throat~~  
cut-throats & ravenous alligators for which the  
Picos is famous -

A bolt was put in at the base of the mud  
slope, & Tim was up, "protected" by a rope.

After a while, Sea & I set UP, & UP, & UP -

At the top is a region of big boulders; it  
really does feel like the top of a ~~cliff~~ ~~clike!~~  
really There is no loose crumbly rocky stuff at base.  
We looked at various climbs up out of base,  
But we didn't have any more rope, & rock was  
quite exposed.

We wanted to be well prepared for the next  
lot, & was had to carry a second Nicolle  
from previous descent for darkness & drops.

Then the top out --- about what I shall  
say nothing as I have gone on long enough already.

Thank you for your attention.

Steve

DANN  
DENSHAW'S  
DEVIANT  
DUNKER!

But it is so elegant! And it was a joint effort, anyway.  
Economical too.

22<sup>nd</sup> July Monday. 53/5

William, Chris

A slow start to the day. After sitting around waiting to find out what happened to the campers, I carried on sitting around since no-one else felt like surveying shagging The Hedgehog. Then William walked up from Los Lagos having arrived the night before, & the two of us eventually set off down the hill at 2:40 pm. I really just wanted to see what the coffee lid looked like - when I had seen it before it was a ridiculous dot with a ridiculously large bulder in it, completely hopeless without weeks of hammering or so I thought. But no - a beautifully elegant down, up, over, down & squeeze along series of manoeuvres had been created by some nutter, with what must have been a tremendous sensation breaking out into the large pitch head beyond. Anyway, we found the way down & started surveying at the bottom of the pitch before shagging the h, with little enthusiasm & even less speed. But we eventually achieved what we had set out to do, & almost felt like trying to do some pushing. But the only hammer was at the foot of the first pitch, so we pushed off out, just failing to walk up before dark. Munched a surprisingly edible raw chick pea and lentil salad by Sr Robert's around midnight.

Time underground 8 hrs

Chris

This is to remind Tim to write about  
 Steve "I will now demonstrate my fire-fighting skills"  
 Robert - his amazing conflagratory Down Down

56

23/7

Area ~~4~~ Dave B.

Went to the Valley where I thought I might find 5/4 - 9/4. Think I probably found 2 of them, but only checked 2. The interesting 2 remain unfound. This is partly due to none of them being marked I think.

Hammer...

Found a ledge very, very high up on Cabaza del Verde which overlooks Valle Extremo etc.

53/5

Simon

23/7

Enlarged Shagging the Hedgehog & the squeeze into the top of the rift, then spent time hammering the next squeeze. Eventually got through, and then down ~~into~~ through another squeeze (now destroyed). Ahead the rift ~~is~~ continues reasonably open. The top squeeze still needs enlarging a bit. Met Jenny and Tim on the way ~~to~~ out. Found a small inlet entering a bit below the 2 hardest squeezes, hammered it a bit, but wasn't enthusiastic enough to enter it.

26 July William, Paul & Alan

After lunch on a festive day looked for Optimists ~~This cave is~~ in patchy mist. This cave is very hard to locate in the mist (see 1982 logs). So instead Paul found a 5m deep rift with a further 1 1/2 second deep 1/4 mile due N of Arco. By now thick mist, so contented ourselves with building cairns there. On the N of valley looking away from Arco. I'm not sure what area it is. William

Area 4

Garim

25/7/91

Went to Llano las Cuevas. (Cross Cabeza Coru-Cabeza Julagua ridge, and follow valley down to a large bowl). Various interesting caves.

a) Large cleft in (R) wall, marked SIE 85 ⊗  
15m shaft. Worth looking at.

b) In centre of bowl, below a), 9/4. Also marked SIE 86 ⊙. Unbottomed by OUC

c) 100m SE (down valley) from 9/4 is 7/4, and an unnumbered shaft marked OUC 88 ⊗

d) In 10m diameter shakehole 40m SE of 7/4 is 5/4 (unbottomed)

e) From ridge forming bottom edge of bowl, a walk-in cave can be seen on the (R) side of the valley with smaller entrances above. Further down on the (R) is a larger entrance

a, b, d and e need looking at. Also 10/4 and 11/4 which are supposedly near by. The continuation of the valley also looks promising. According to John Wilcock, 2/7 goes under here.

5:30-ish 25/7/91

Tony arrives and commences his return for a camping trip with his usual phrase "There's no particular problem or panic but..." This time the campers coming out know that there's virtually no paraffin to speak of. So poor Pat is stuck @ the entrance to 2/7 waiting for it having come back out from the riffs. There is only one person for the mercy dash to deliver paraffin + tea and its ME, expdn blot who has not been to 2/7 this year and who is NOT FIT. Rats, sort out container as NO SUITABLE CONTAINER @ Arco [Jam jar / log roll / BDH]. Go immediately

To 'Go', do not pass collect £200, but run like an idiot to 2/7. Get lost on the borders, wrack memory desperately back to 1988, get to the point of screaming bloody ~~ing~~ frustration + tears, finally decide to drop down a few feet, ~~at~~ AT LAST spot cairns. Get into sun, puffing like an idiot. Up to 2/7 @ 19:10 left Ario 18.30-ish. Left Paul @ 19:45, arrived Ario @ 20.30, relieved after dreadful run down Jov la Cistra where weather was desperate, given onion soup and goodies by Richard + Gavin, bliss bliss bliss. My feet hurt like hell, but I feel like I've done my bit. A satisfying day after which I will sleep very well. Thank-you.

26/7 P.S. - I couldn't sleep last night → what justice is this?!? Joan

4<sup>th</sup> camp 22/7 - 25/7 Those who can, do, Those who can't, write about it.

Canal de Trea Richard + Gavin

Gavin soaked up the bullshit and agreed to come. Essentially the question is - where does the ancient stream that carved 2/7 high levels - where did it resurge? Somewhere between Huerta del Rey and Culiebro at an altitude of c. 1000 - 1100 metres. Now, there is a line marked on the map on the canal de Trea called Cuarobles at 1050 m; could it be the ancient exit?

Off we went to look at it. An hours walk down the terrible canal de Trea to find that Cuarobles isn't a cave at all - it's more like an amphipit full of sheep shit. The interesting thing is that the front of the scoop (for such Cuarobles could well be described) has unusual sedimentary rocks + pebbles glued together by calcite, such as only seem to be found underground. Gavin and I sat on the grass and I asked 'Are we looking at the ancient 2/7 remnant, long abandoned, long filled in?' Both of us said - no. So we frisked off up the hill again. Richard

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1991.

Tim, Jenny S3/S5.

Met Gavin on his way out after pushing S3/S5's next squeeze - a nasty vertical twist. We continued through this and into what Gavin had described as "wide open rift" to find another squeeze. - the last draw. Tried to go underneath to start with, but the entry is much <sup>less</sup> pleasant than it looks so I tried going over the top. Failed to borrow, this led eventually to a right hand bend, and more tight rift. its hard going.

25<sup>th</sup> July 1991.

Tim, William. S3/S5

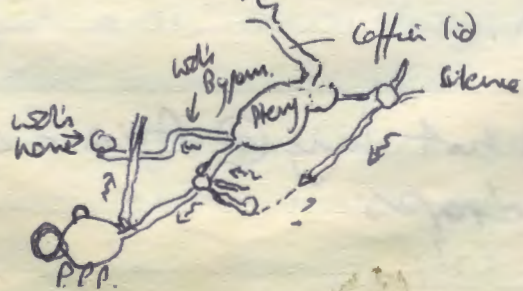
A lot of little bits trip. (2)

(1) looked up the two inlets at the junction down from the Pterodactyl. The left one closes down. The ~~right~~ next is parallel to a road character which ~~has~~ has a rift over the top. This probably continues to entrance of the levels, but Tim only pushed as far as the a point above the character needs

Surveying.

(2) "Wells home" - William found a silly little phreatic bubble character with a circular hole into it in shows rift just before the inlet, and on the left. Great for denists - sort of place Duge and Jan could set up a tea stall and sell flapjacks.

(3) "Wells By-pass" - The inlet (see 2) leads through a two squeezes and a constriction to a chock up (described by William as "very exposed"), a couple of chockey cranks, and you appear back in the bottom of pterodactyl. This is a more direct route (but difficult) into the bottom of shows.



- ④. Attempted to climb in the shattered chamber at the base of the second pitches, but things either went wrong, or I got too scared. It may still be possible to get way over the top of Rodula rift by climbing up through ~~stall legs~~ Daddy Short legs inlet and on up high in the rift. This should be ~~and~~ tried.
- ⑤. Survey of Daddy Short legs - A testimony to Williams' perseverance and thoroughness: he refused to "move the survey station" to make things easier, and rode for very awkward. One of our survey legs was 83 cms long W.
- ⑥. Climbed up high into the rift above P.P.P. in an attempt to rig a pendulum access to the far side. Beautiful formations, with 2 left stalagmites high in the reef. Tim belayed to a large chimney, and abseiled down into the chamber, to find that the 30m rope wasn't nearly as long as he had thought. Still it was sufficient to manage the pendulum over to the far side, and look briefly at the shattered inlet in the hope of finding large passage and a source for S3/S's big draught. Tim belayed at the upper 2 levels, finding a couple of possible cracks on (horror advised) - the best over a huge slab low. But I couldn't get to the lower level - which may go more easily. This really needs a rope letted down, ~~low~~ so that the route will be down into ~~the P.P.P.~~ a Parker's chimney, and up the other side. This will alternate the need to use the ~~pendulum~~ <sup>apertures</sup> ~~finish~~ phoretting pendulum. Shows to discover that our pendulum rope was Polish & fit only for footholds & raising boulders from squeezes.

W.

247711  
Another storming hot day @ Anis as the day rises and the wind drops



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July Looking for Optimisto - The creation of Area II.

Decided to make another look for Optimisto with zero success.

Did, however find a few other holes.

Define Area II as back end of Area 5, the other side of the ridge from Refugio

10. Look N of Cabeza Forma - Cabeza Julagua in large bowl, which goes steep towards Cabeza Naxa. On area marked Jous de Ario

~~Caves 3/11 to 6/11 are close to path marked on colored map which are N of from Ario those along the bottom of a green valley. Path is parallel to Los Lagos~~  
~~Path 1/11 to 6/11 are in direction getting close to Ario.~~

1/11 = Optimisto = 30/S (NOT Red circle cave)

I still can't find it!

2/11 = Paul Naxa's cave (see entry of 24/July) unmarked

3/11 Caves 3/11 to 6/11 are close to path running NNW from Ario parallel to Los Lagos path below Srd 4. 3/11 is furthest from Ario

3/11 Suma Bearing from Cabeza forma 156° from Cabeza Julagua 112°  
Small bedding crawl at base of cliff <sup>5</sup>/<sub>2</sub> above col on lhs, 50' above green col.  
Probably closed.

4/11 A most unlikely entrance. Obvious wide crawl at foot of 20' deep & 30' across green basin at foot of valley on path. 100m nearer Ario than 3/11.  
Cabeza Forma 164° Cabeza Julagua 106°

5/11 Obvious shaft on right path (towards Ario) at foot of valley. Marked  $\emptyset$  by SIE. Goes to snow plug. unmarked.  
Cabeza Forma 183° Cabeza Julagua 103°

6/11 Sheep shelter at base of 6ft high cliff 10m above 5/11.

7/11 Cabeza Forma 196° Cabeza Julagua ~~122~~ 131° Portonde Tubanti 337°  
Sheep shit cave. Large feature no cairn on col overlooking steep drop to Pozu los Texas. Walk down boulder slope to foot of 40' cliff. Floor covered in sheep shit. Crawl leads off. Ugh!  
?Cabeza de los Campanas 300°

8/11 Perched Boulder Cave Cabeza Julagua 126° Cabeza Forma 227°  
This is almost on top of cairned ridge running N to from Cabeza Julagua, just on the N side (away from Ario) no cairn  
Large obvious entrance with perched boulder over top, top part in entrance & bushes growing. Faded SIE mark 84  $\emptyset$  SO I didn't add an oval one.  
Ca 5m down to another perched boulder than see more floor.

Riff then also bears 340. This one's a must! William

26/7/91.

53/5 Richard + Steve After coming out of the cave (undescended owing to skatopiges on part of R6) we, too, walked into area 4 led by Michelle. Climbed up Cabeza Verde to the next one along, & in a c1 between latter & Cabeza Llambin we had a look at a shaft entrance that we now know to be 12/4. It is clear from the situation of this cave and from the description by Gavin that it requires further attention. We also were afforded rather spectacular views over the Valle Extremena and area 10. In the middle of this, on a broken piece of ground at the head of el Regrexon we could see an obvious entrance, and one which would obviously be invisible from any other place. This entrance is in a position almost too good to be true - it just beyond Huerta del Rey, overlying the head of the rest of 2/7. After dinner Steve & I will go and try to go down to this entrance. Maybe finding the rest of 2/7 will make up for not getting past the fucking spin lid.

Richard

SI-11 26/7/91 ~~Bill~~ Richard, Steve & ~~the~~ William

After Supper 3 pissed doctors with 25 expeditions & 102 years between them set off down the Toca path. Right by the path was a hole 2yds on the left shortly after the Sulbaya path leads off. William climbed down & it goes (7/10). So we carried on to a green field where there was a manhole (8/10). This time I didn't climb down. So we went down the corner to the cave which turned out to be a solution pocket. Fortunately Steve had a good memory & we climbed up to a huge exit walk-in entrance 3m x 2m which sloped down gently for 10m until it turned right. There we were stopped by lack of illumination. Resolved to return tomorrow + all the rope + bolt kit. Climbed up to top to a rabbit hole. "Throw a rock down there William" Chuck "No, make it go down the hole" Clunk. Struggled back ecstatically to an ~~his~~ audience believing we were on something. Is this the big one?

William