

28.7.92 Spectacular display of electric storm over the peaks, evening & one short heavy rain burst. Windy - several tents had to be re-guyed. Warm wind during the night. Just Dave H. & John in residence; nobody has come down.

29.7.92 John walking via Belbin and Arnaedo back to Vega Maor then back via Camplengo & Parres (return about 7pm).

29/7/92

Some notes on survey deficiencies that came up during discussion with Chris Lloyd and others.

- ① Insufficient permanently marked stations - this is a particularly bad problem in Z17 and is causing problems with taking this years survey into previous surveys.
- ② Poor drawings, in particular lack of cross sections, and not drawing an extended elevation whilst in the cave.
- ③ Lack of passage detail - floor type and the like.
- ④ A note should be made of the serial numbers of each the instruments used in case of problems later.
- ⑤ Surveys should be via 'leapfrogging' wherever possible.
Leapfrogging does NOTHING to eliminate compass misreadings, although it does make for less errors in station positioning. Its disadvantages are: (i) difficulty of passing one another; (ii) it makes calculation of coordinates more error prone.

(32)
The following are the results from the survey of IWWI streamway made by Sean & David. Written here because of the lack of anywhere else. (probably not a grade 5 survey).

	beaing	elev	dist	fram/b	beaing	elev	dist
2 → 1	068	-1	4.9	26 → 25	150	-8	1.7
3 → 2	177	+32	2.28	27 → 26	069	-4	3.4
4 → 3	042	-8	3.0	28 → 27	102	+28	5.8
5 → 4	202	-13	4.77	29 → 28	117	+2	7.5
6 → 5	172	-14	1.6	30 → 29	200	+6	7.9
7 → 6	230	0	2.8	31 → 30	115	+3	4.3
8 → 7	065	-5	10.85	32 → 31	345	+2	4.1
9 → 8	182	-3	3.7	33 → 32	009	+6	5.7
10 → 9	092	+45	2.6	34 → 33	257	-1	3.1
11 → 10	039	-7	3.8	35 → 34	222	+5	8.5
12 → 11	092	+15	7.4	36 → 35	128	0	4.6
13 → 12	135	-1	10.3	37 → 36	340	0	1.5
14 → 13	080	-40	2.2	38 → 37	032	0	5.1
15 → 14	075	-40	5.8	39 → 38	038	+8	6.2
16 → 15	128	+12	10.0	39.40 → 39	052	+5	3.1
17 → 16	174	+17	6.2	41 → 40	224	+3	5.2
18 → 17	190	0	3.0	42 → 41	302	0	5.4
19 → 18	286	-27	2.9	43 → 42	022	0	6.8
20 → 19	265	-2	3.4	44 → 43	000	+7	3.4
21 → 20	177	+10	7.2	45 → 44	339	+3	3.9
22 → 21	129	+2	7.0	46 → 45	009	-1	2.3
23 → 22	031	-7	5.1	47 → 46	058	+1	5.0
24 → 23	103	+1	4.0	48 → 47	037	0	3.34
25 → 24	180	+6	4.3	*48 → *49	270	-37	1.65

from/to	bearing	elev	dist
50 → 49	128	-18	2.35
51 → 50	148	-4	2.5
52 → 51	041	+7	6.3
53 → 52	259	+6	2.3
54 → 53	064	+1	1.2
55 → 54	169	+2	1.8
56 → 55	088	-2	5.3
57 → 56	129	0	2.9
58 → 57	334	+1	2.4
59 → 58	256	-4	4.1
60 → 59	012	-8	7.6
61 → 60	054	+25	3.2
62 → 61	355	+8	6.9
63 → 62	254	-18	6.4
A → 49	147	-60	7.19
B → A	-	-90	17.86

A few random thoughts on surveying:

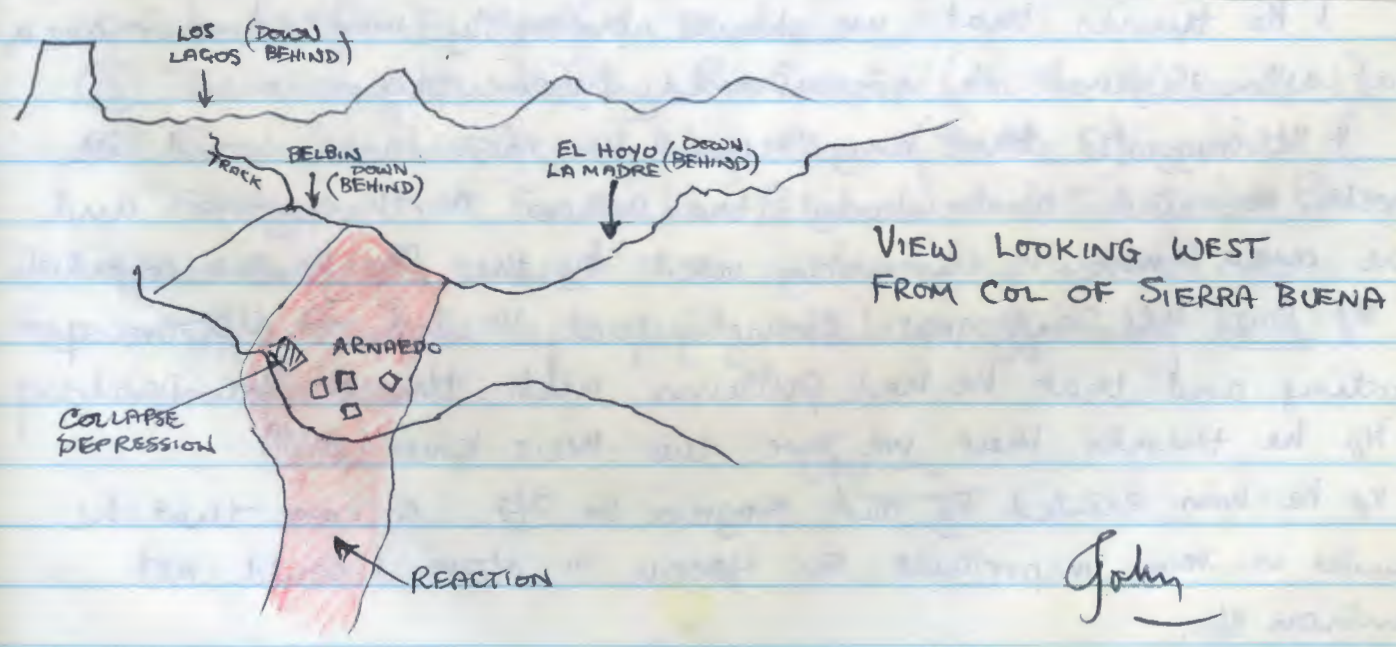
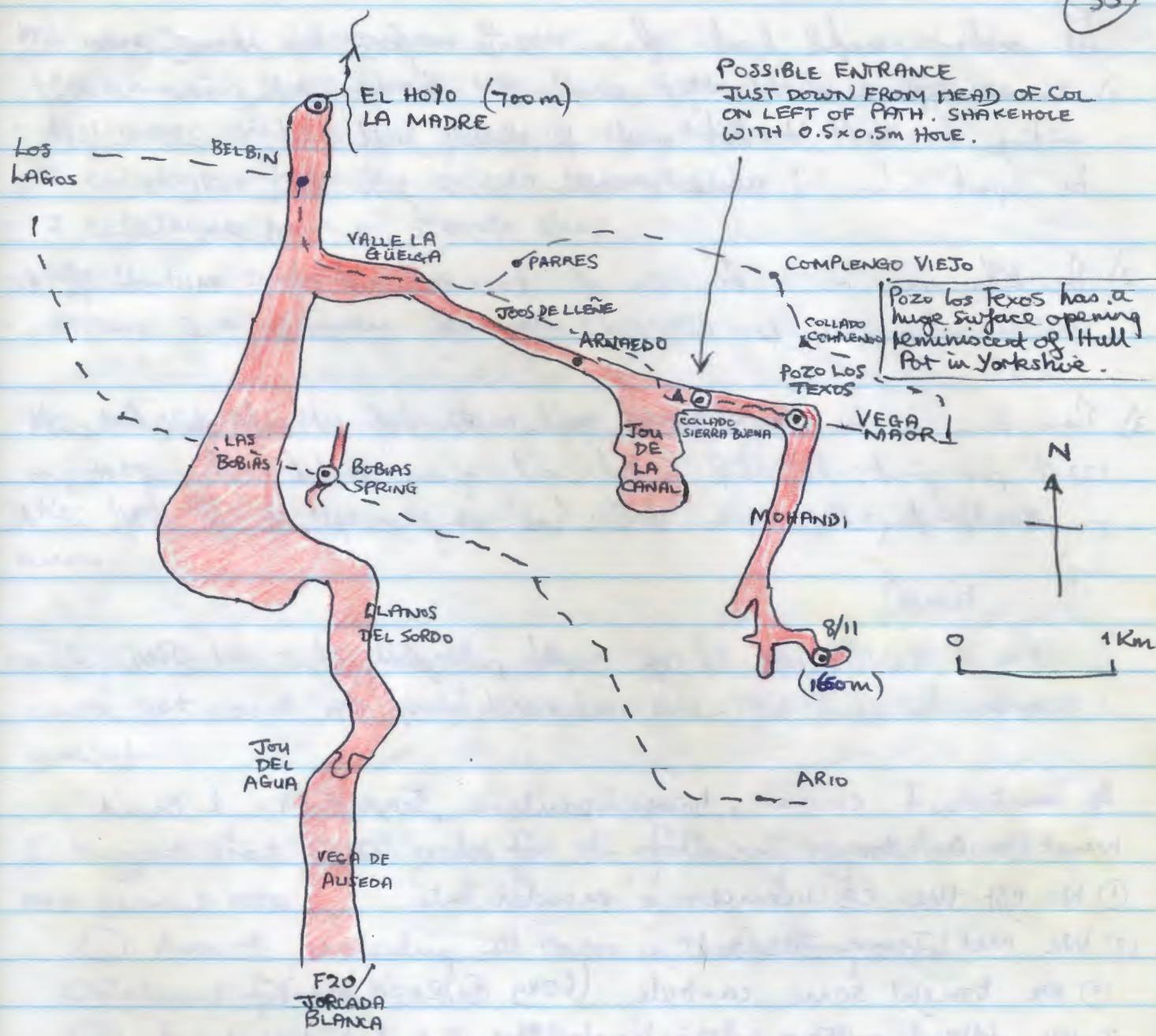
- (i) see note about leapfrogging on previous page
- (ii) When taking notes on a pre-printed survey book you don't have to fill the left-hand page before starting a new page: if you are drawing lots of diagrams you'll only be able to get about 5 legs to a page (I'm particularly guilty of this)
- (iii) Yes, we should set up more permanent survey stations, at least at every junction or every 8 legs. These should ideally be cairns or bolts: caliche marks rub off. A note should be written in the survey book about all

- 5 inch ⁽³⁴⁾ survey stations.
- (iv) Writing up surveys would be easier if we had some pre-printed paper ~~now~~ ruled into rows and columns.
 - (v) There is a trade off between quality of survey and time spent on it: too much time spent on details means less time spent pushing, and so the final survey at the end of expedition is smaller and less impressive.
- Gavin

29.7.92 Again a spectacular electric storm in the evening. This one was much worse than yesterday with several very close (simultaneous flash & bang) bolts of lightning. One of these happened just as Dave & Sean arrived back round the road after telephoning in Covadonga. Dave H., Dave M., Sean, Rigby/Hacey & John in camp.

30.7.92 John guarding camp. Dave, Sean, Rigby/Hacey to Oviedo & shopping trip. Dave H. to Ario. Gavin came down & went up 1445 again.

John 29.7.92 walked via Belbin, Arnaedo, Collado Sierra Buena, Vega Maor, Collado Complengo, Complengo Viejo, Pares, Belbin — equivalent to Ario & back — but much harder as it goes down to 1000 m, col at 1450 m, Vega Maor 1200, col at 1400 m, down to 1000 m, climb to 1150. The net result was that dowsing indicates that 8/11 ^(1650 m) goes via Mohandi, then Pozo los Texas, Arnaedo, Jor de Lleñe, Valle La Güelga to Resurge at El Hoyo La Madre (700 m), hence 950 m depth potential and about 5 km of distance. By going via Collado Complengo & Complengo Viejo a northern reaction was also looked for, but none was found, so the resurgence seems to be El Hoyo La Madre and not a northern resurgence such as Fuente Las Palvoras or Fuente Los Brazos. There are strong readings in the Jor de Lleñe, Arnaedo and Jor de la Canal areas. Dye tracing experiments between 8/11, Pozo los Texas and El Hoyo La Madre should be undertaken to confirm this.



(36)

Let another usefull (not offelous) note from the treasurer:-

1) Someone appears to have put 20,000 Pt into the killy box without writing this down. I don't mind this very much, but someone might be upset when I demand another 20,000 from them.

2) The killy owes me in the region of £5000 Pt, and has no money. Be sensible when you go shopping.

3) There seem to be two types of pork. The stuff in red packets costs 122 Pt per pork, the stuff in red and green packets costs £9 Pt, so you should buy the green stuff (and compare prices of things in the shop).

Finally, it would help if you could pay for your entire stay all at once, rather than by weekly installments, if you can.

As mentioned earlier, Davenunpauline, Sean Sean, & David went to Oriedo.

① We got the CB licences a month late

② We met Juan José

③ we bought some carbide (60kg @ 12000 pías).

④ we talked a lot - well, he talked & we listened.

↳ He thinks that we have probably worked our area out after 15 years. He is impressed by our perseverance.

↳ He suggested that any request for more area would be well received, particularly the areas north of Ario and the area that is currently used by the Poles (this to be cooperative).

iii// But he said quite strongly that he did not approve of pirating and that he had problems with this in the past.

iv// he thinks that we are the bee's knees (still!!)

v// He was excited by our progress in 2/7, a cave that he thinks is very important. For reason iii above I could not mention 8/11.

We were given at random times:

- An amazing book about the Picos with loads of pictures
- A 1:10000 map of the whole of the National Park.
- 2 catalogues from the orredo carving shop
- 2 catalogues from a sports shop
- lots of bin bags
- posters of a famous Spanish climber.

We bought all the mantillas we could find.

He has lots of things for us to do, but more of these anon.

David

ps. Re. note iii - be discrete when going to 8/11, it is not ours yet, and we could mess up our future if we are not careful.

I suggest that OUCC asks for the following regions as well as our current area:

- ① Area 4, including all caves in the underground catchment for Culiembra
- ② Area 11, including all caves in the underground catchment for El Hoyo la Madre
- ③ The massif bounded by Río Casarío (on the W and N), Río Cares (on the E) and Vega Maor (to the S), with resurgence at Fuente Las Palomas and Fuente Los Brazos.

It is true that the current area is becoming worked out. However, 8/11 must be kept quiet until we officially have permission for area 11.

John

John
(38) 2.8.92 Nothing written in this log since 30.7.92, perhaps largely because Base Camp has been a sick bay from turning upsets. I have been up to Aris for one night since then, where for example, there was the "rescue" for Martin H. & Dave B. overdue 6 hours on the night of 31.7.92. There has been much whingeing about the reasons for having 2200 as the call-out time. However, the rescue call-out was very efficiently managed, and after much walking up the hill, reaching Base, and preparing food in the early hours, all was well and the rescue stood down at 0200 on 1.8.92. As a result not much was done except eating and talking at Aris for most of 1.8.92.

2.8.92 John leaving for France. See you all at Bradford at the BCRA Conference 12/13.9.92, where there are good asian restaurants! I hope all your photos & surveys come out OK. Best of luck with your future endeavours. Perhaps I will see you all at the Expedition Dinner in Oxford as well. Thanks for everything & I wouldn't have missed it for worlds. John

2nd August

0945 Base camp: Fenella, Chris, Dave B., Tim, Steve

We have entered the arena of the unwell. Base camp reels with the groans of the sick, and an obvious dent of mistimed bowel movements loads over the lip of the quarry. We are attempting to drink weak tea.

1030 Tim knackered his shoulder trying to beat an egg.

1035 Fenella joined the unwell

1044 Mr Bell emerged with his lip and voiced indecision about whether or not he was alive. It is getting worse.

1047 Chris seen emerging gradually, despite now being almost hollow, from the quarry. It clears it was only a pee, but this could be a cover-up. He is clearly embarrassed at

the frequency of his visits.

11:40. Dave manages to derig Tim's pigtail, and has it washed. Dave then conducts a ridiculous washing line, and dries it down again. Chris, Fenella and Steve just sit. It is getting hotter.

11:42 Chris inserts into activity, and shoves a rusty Mantle in his left ear. We are all very impressed, but Chris' ear is now full of rust and engine oil.

11:43. ~~Chris brain is~~ "The unwellness" spreads to Chris' Brain. He now sticks the mantle up his nose. Then his lip. We are becoming unsure what to direction the unwellness will take next.

11:45 Chris discovers it is becoming hard to talk. He is informed that this may simply be because he has a mantle ~~in~~ screwed onto his lip. There is much relief.

11:48 Dave explains that a mantle has fallen from the sky - "it is a uga!". In fact the mantle has fallen off Chris' lower lip, and it is a uga only that Chris has become bored, & only temporarily, ~~at~~ set with sticking mantles onto bits of his head.

11:56. ~~When~~ Chris loses deep in thought. When queried, ~~at that~~ he announces that he is thinking about nothing. This is the second time since the unwellness struck that Chris admits to thinking about nothing.

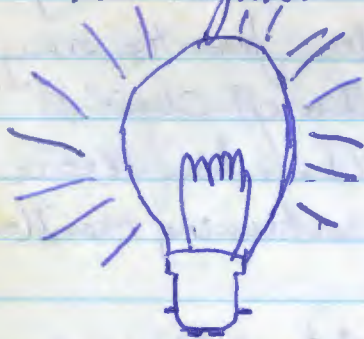
12:25 Tim surfaces from rustiness, and triumphantly announces his achievement of the entire morning: he pronounces himself clean. He scrubs his teeth vigorously, and with an impressive flourish overbalances backwards into the quarry.

12:26 Tony, who has just arrived from Aird, brings the news that Harvey has entered the arena of the unwell....

12:41. Chris, who is sitting in his chair, suddenly dips and falls retroactively into his chair. Reality is receding. Steve disappears. Probably he is in the quarry, shitting himself copiously. Fenella is still sitting doing nothing.

12:45. A plan forms in the collective consciousness of the unwell. We are going on to run an expedition to the bar. Meanwhile an corlette is being made. Everyone is trying to pretend that nothing is wrong. But beneath the facade, guts ~~are~~ rumble, feet jitter, and trillions of tiny microbes fuck each others brains out in a frenzy of reproduction.

1500. The unwell seems to have entered recession, or perhaps recursion. Food has been eaten, and the Expedition to the bar has begun.



I have seen the way and the light. I know the way on 2/7.

6/8/92 Ilkade Gerhard arrive from Munich c. 5 pm

7/8/92 — " & " — leaving for Top Camp (area F) for first camp c. 1³⁰ pm, intending to return to Base tonight.

Sean (or somebody): could you please let me know (e.g. by writing it onto the space below these lines) which day the Expedition is intending to leave Lages? (I'm booked on the Santander ferry on Thu 20 August 14:00 so if this is not causing any inconvenience I'd be leaving that Thursday morning.) Thanks — Gerhard

(41)
end
✓

12/8/92 4:31 am

Arrived at base after a beautiful walk down, clear sky all the way from Xitu and a full moon, to find base camp immaculate. Could it be someone taking notice of all the officious advice? Seriously, the kitty has been very easy for me to organise this year, this worked to Chris' benefit when I could tell him that he had overpaid the kitty by 5,000 R. Thanks to everyone for putting up with all the hassle and pieces of paper. (except whoever it was who caused me to get back from a derring trip down 2/7 at 12:30 on the morning when I need to leave at 9:00)

Sean.

P.S. If anyone reads this in the morning before I wake up again, could they tell JK that we are leaving at 9:00.

Dear David

A thousand thanks for the vast (well not very vast actually) amount of gear you are taking home for us (we'd have had to put Katya on the roof-rack otherwise.)

Glad you found some cave (very glad that some of it wasn't down 2/7).

We found a little bit more of Joe 90 which they seemed to stop but now it looks like it goes again, we also found a 100m deep going cave with an entrance at 2400m

Get home safely.

Love + HUGS Sherry

p.s. we relieved you of a couple of tons of mossflakes.