

17th July Mark, Martin, Stephan
Surveying in Ocu

17th July Dave, John, Abraham
Went to investigate the holes that Mr Dave found
on Ocu plateau (Hills). Last cave was fairly diked
with earth and leaves. Only few super dedicated diggers.
The 45° shafts were full of boulders, and the ~~two~~
most westerly one we shifted 1/2 ton of boulders to
no real avail, 2 1/2 clear but tight passages leading
off. The collapsed shaft remained collapsed. The
most westerly of the southerly 2 pots looked
promising through a pile of boulders and a further
1/2 ton of shifted boulders revealed a 45° tube
which Dave finally squeezed into. It choked after
20ft. A frustrating day had by all. Dave

18th July (Wed) Mark, ~~Mark~~^{Ian}, Stephen, Dave, Graham, Al

Completed survey of Main passage in Ocu

Skunk, ~~Steph~~, Liz, Kathy, Kevin, Simon, Mike, Martin

Tam Party. No caving

Pete - went down Viento with Bill Collins, in dry kit, only to find it wet. He found some new passage in the entrance series

The exciting part of the day was a hailstorm with massive hailstones, up to 1" across, and a late finish in the bar

100

18th July (Wed) Mtd. ¹⁰¹ ~~100~~ (Ward)
 Completed survey of main passage in C.D. in ~~the~~
 2nd, ~~3rd~~, ~~4th~~, ~~5th~~, ~~6th~~, ~~7th~~, ~~8th~~, ~~9th~~, ~~10th~~, ~~11th~~, ~~12th~~, ~~13th~~, ~~14th~~, ~~15th~~, ~~16th~~, ~~17th~~
 Tom Porty - No writing

Pate - wet for 4 hrs. With ill still ~~with~~
 find it wet. Hayward saw no ~~signs~~
 series

The weather got quite dry and a ~~bit~~
 but a ~~bit~~
 for

19th July (Thu)
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20th July (Fri)
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21st July (Sat)
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22nd July (Sun)
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23rd July (Mon)
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24th July (Tue)
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Thursday 19th July

~~Basically no work at all. Went to the bank for the first time.~~

Late start, cold ^{wet} weather, general apathy, so no carving by anybody
In fact, nothing by anybody except Dave & John (below). In the
evening we went to the Restaurant for a sooper meal, which was
great

Wed. Thursday 19th July

Dave and I walked up to the smoked Pook cave and
looked more carefully at the entrance. As well
as several frozen cheeses over small wells
metal doors etc. a small vertical pneumatic
tube was found. It looks
worth a thirt visit... (bump!)
(with bread)

FRIDAY 20TH JULY

Cueva de la Caña (Walking stick pot)

Dave, Al, Stephan and I ^(John) surveyed Walking stick Pot. After a speedy start yours truly dropped the pencil down an inaccessible crack and in spite of growling by Stephan and Dave had to return to camp for another. Meanwhile, the others decided to push... led initially by an intrepid Al as far as a small choke, part of which promptly decided to attack him, we pressed on; Al's bruises compelled him to return to the surface so Stephan and Dave continued. The 'duck' turned out to be a squeeze (the duck was too low) and was negotiated easily (?!). This led via a small muddy chamber into a delightful wet crawl, about twenty yds long after which the passage opened into a rift. This was followed for about yds to a boulder choke which was impassable. We ascended ^{nearly} to the top of the rift and Dave found a high level continuation above a false floor. This came to an end after yds, but the rift continued downwards, though we did not follow it. Dave & Stephan returned and surveying was resumed up as far as the "duck-which-wasn't." By which stage cold forced all three of us to exit hurriedly. Walking on the surface looking for likely entrances ensued - two or three of which we poked our noses down. One extremely hopeful shaft was found by Dave - we descended 5m and intend to return later. Location = 100m west of Casu. Al

Simon, Kev, Mike
El Haya La Made — yet again. Picky trip. & Graham.

A relatively sedate dinnish start off us to the entrance at about 1pm. Apart from my flashlight gun not working at first the photography went well. Mike did ~~well~~ a good job of swimming with only a few complaints. We picked to the 1st sump and then exited to have lunch! Despite exploding stoves ~~and~~ and ancient egg deposits (see Anglesey) — the hot tea was vaguely edible. Bredel + spirit jam, chocolate etc were also consumed; highly civilised. At this point the cloud lifted by about 200' — for a brief moment: we returned to the cave with high hopes of a sunny emergence (retrospective joke).

Mike hereby continues: — In the upper series even I kept dry for a while. Quite a long time was spent by our technicians in setting up a shot of a pool with reflections, after which Graham departed under a false floor and the rest of the party continued to the final sump. Eventually I was persuaded to swim in this and the serious photographic recording was complete. Simon and Kev took a few snaps of the streamway whilst I made my way out, to find Graham stuck at the foot of the ladder without a light. Simon then appeared in a similar condition, but we made a safe exit and with much moaning about the humid weather, proceeded back to camp in a very wet condition.

Cueva del Viento.

Party:- M. Lavery. Pete. Skippy. Ian. Mark. Skunk. + LIZ.

Time:- 6 hours (approx).

A low crawl and damp bit lead to active streamway and previously swamped areas and then a refreshing swim. Pete said that the water level had risen approximately 4' since his last visit 2 days ago in dry's.

The next bit was like a maze and much time was lost route finding. Eventually the rift was located and with easy traversing quick progress was made. A muddy phreatic area led to some confusion. Skunk scrambled down a previously unentered rift and emerged halfway up a chamber lower than the main rift with a small active stream flowing through it. Martin also looked down some phreatic tubes nearer the sump which led to another sump - not noted on the 1961 O.V.C.E survey. Eventually the terminal sump was located and the charcoal deep detector placed. A draughting squeeze was pushed (not very far) by Skunk till it got too tight. As this is mud floored it will be worth a return with a trowel.

Most people had an uneventful quick exit but not so Martin. An IKA attempt on his life failed dismally at the terminal sump however it did promote bowel action which was relieved on the way out. As the attempt was unsuccessful Martin was

left on his own in the cave with no light under the poelence that Sam and Skunk were still in there. Eventually the party weakened and went to his aid. Will another attempt be made? Following reports will reveal all!

Skunk (W.M.C.E.G.)

Saturday 21st July '79

Walking Slids Cave

Dave, Al, John

Suggestions that we rename it Cueva del Boston? Carried on surveying from the 'duck'. Immediately became very wet and muddy and consequently cold. The subsequent crawl in water and low distance between stations proved too much for Al who retired with cold feet. ^{literally} Dave and John carried on and investigated the deep rift with failing lights. The top of the rift is easy to negotiate but the flunstone which cuts off the top part of the rift. Creeping down into the rift will be very tight for the group who finally made it; our 2 attempts to descend were unsuccessful. At this point we refilled our failing lights with muddy water. This was fatal as the valves became jammed. Both lights went out as we were returning through the wet crawl. We finished the crawl to the duck in complete darkness and spent a desperate 10 minutes trying to clear the valves. ~~That~~ After giving this up in despair we spent 10 mins

more trying various other ideas until we finally triumphed by striking a flint into an open carbide can into which a drop of water had been poured. The flame produced blinded us for $\frac{1}{2}$ minute. We made our way out after lighting a smouldering candle and repairing a carbide.

We also surveyed the upper ice entrance to the right above the 12' pitch and fully surveyed the snow plugged shaft. South ridge above Osa explored. Not much found. Dave.

Quote:- "I'm 'ungry!" (My stomach). (Many times).

Osa - Ian, Mark, Mike

Our intention was to try and find a sump bypass, and to investigate any high-level series and inlets. No by-pass was found. Above the streamway, just before the sump, very muddy slopes, which could not be climbed without the aid of an ice axe. A small inlet flowing over flowstone in the chamber before last may lead to an upper series, but the climb was a little hairy and was not finished. 4 other inlets were looked at but all ~~are~~ forced up with 40 ft climbs. As time passed on & carbides got low, and no new passageway discovered we returned to the surface.

Ian & Mark

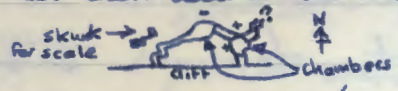
(Could this be the same one as I attempted on 5th? Dave)

EPIC DAY 2

Sunday 22nd July.

Martin, Skippy, Skunk, Kew & Kathy → find Cueva del Friero in order to see if the water flows into C. del Viento.

Mucho mist necessitated a compass traverse over promising looking ground until arrival at what the leader recognized as the Hoyo Saco after having arrived there at a similar time (but with sunnier conditions, heat exhaustion etc. & Pete & Mark) one week before. Had he but realised it, exquisite navigation (ie luck) had brought the party within ~10m of the cave entrance. However, not realising quite how fiendish the French & Spanish can be it was assumed that Vega de Justillagar was not the Hoyo Saco & so bread & chorizo was washed down with vino while a further route march was contemplated to the next closed depression to the E (now assumed to be called something other than Justillagar). Just before the col over into this, however, Skunk noticed a diminutive arch in a cliff face & inserted himself. He did not notice that a similar arch emerged from the same face about 6m to the left and slightly lower and did not realise the through trip was on until he had decided that the first draughting squeeze was scarcely Skunk-sized. Skippy then aided & abetted the attempt on Skunk's life and most people decided that it was a pity that Skunk's boots would not fit through the second squeeze - but the prospect of either carrying a sack of cement up or of camping outside so as to feed the hapless caves appealed to few. Skunk, however, finally decided that maybe the through trip was not on and returned, with the help of a few palaeolithic implements in knocking projections off the first squeeze. 2 1/2 hrs and most of a new boilersuit after entering, Skunk emerged to the news that it had been decided that we should never have left the Hoyo Saco anyway.



Return was made to said Hoyo & C. del Friero duly located (name painted as entrance) about 1/2 hr after ETA back at camp. Nevertheless, Skunk & Martin + a bottle of Fluorescein entered the cave, found lots of cotton threads (orange as at Hoyo la Madre), but failed to find any water in a 15 minute foray. Emerged to find me bagged dragonfly and made a rapid & easy return to the hand lower & to spag. bol. à la M.G.

Martin