

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July.

Kev's cave.

Party:- Skippy, Skunk and Mike. Sherpa's:- Pete.

Time:- 8 hours.

Many thanks to Pete the pack horse for helping haul some of our gear to the entrance of what is now known as Pessimista Potho<sup>2</sup> (pessimist pot; there is no Spanish translation for optimist).

Skunk was optimistic talking of grand shafts and sporting streamways, Skippy was pessimistic talking of it closing down after the next short drop and Mike ... well, he was just complaining.

The entrance is somewhat narrow but nothing desperate and soon opens out into a fair sized chamber decorated with fossilised stal. Skippy had somewhat misjudged the length of this pitch and after hassling with Martin for ladders found to his disgust they did not reach the bottom. The entrance pitch is approximately 20 m. Skippy's estimate was 14 m, <sup>100%</sup> despite being prone to exaggeration.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> pitch follows immediately and was re-rigged with ladder. This was another 20 m. It is a bit awkward at the top with a tackle bag, ammo can, prussik bag etc and there is an eyehole 10 m down. There is a crawl quite close to the eyehole which has still to be investigated.

Tinkle crawl follows where stal smasher extraordinaire, Skippy, had gained entry to the head of a short pitch of 5m. Again moving tackle through has its problems and the pitch has an awkward take off.

A short 13m rope pitch follows belayed to a fair sized conical stal. It was found easier to get on the rope by following a short crawl and emerging approximately 2m down the rope.

Opposite the landing is a hands and knees crawl to a chamber with the sound of running water, still to be investigated and behind the rope is another pitch with a shallow pool in the bottom, still to be investigated. The way on is down a rift to the head of a short free climbable pitch with a large stal boss at the head of it. Virgin territory now. The rope was soon rigged to the boss and protected at the lip of the next drop. Skunk abbed down and had a look round. A traverse to the right overlooked a large chamber (bolt needed). A hole in the false floor which Skunk nearly fell down was soon descended and was found to be clear washed and freehanging. Shouts of "this is more like it!" etc. Ran out of rope at the bottom. 50m. Now standing on the head of another pitch.

<sup>top stals</sup> Plenty of dubious belays the best of which was used. Skunk descended first announcing there was opening half way down and then continued down. After a good look round a large decorated chamber

at the bottom with no way on he reascended. For ease this was done on knots, a changeover at the hole and then a descent down a narrow wet stalled up shaft. Approximately 33m in all.

This gave access to large chugle floored chamber with a miniscule stream running through it.

G2 passage followed (razor sharp etc) leading to some nicely decorated chambers. In case it closed down soon only one person pushed on to help preserve the formations. Skippy found more decorated chambers and thoutchy bits to a free climbable 13m pitch more cravts etc but sadly time was short and a return had to be made.

Skippy made a bit of an epic of the exit from G2 passage much to Skunk's amusement. Revenge is sweet. He finally exited with tattered boiler suit and a torn arse and back.

Mike had started prussiking out. Skunk and Skippy had light problems and were unable to contact Mike who should have been at the top of the 33m pitch.

Skippy prussiked up first. No Mike, no voice contact even. So he couldn't even be at the top of surprise shaft. Skunk prussiked up and then traversed round the head of the pitch to look for a corpse. There wasn't one. (Shame?)

Both shafts proved good prussiks. Still no Mike. We were becoming perturbed. He was eventually

located lightless past the short rope pitch at the base of the ladder pitch. Bollocks that were due were given etc. Less said the better.

A fairly uneventful exit was made and nobody had any real difficulties with the entrance pitch.

We are now down to approximately -500' having passed through a fossilised stal region and are now into active stal and still going!

<u>Pitches:-</u>	Entrance	20m
	2nd	20m
	Tinkle Crawl	5m
	Rope	13m
	Suprise Shaft	50m
	Biseclör Shaft.	33m.

plus a free climbable 13m pitch. at end of G2 passage and various downward trends, odds + seds.

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

P.S For the benefit of the tacklemaster.

Marlow 90m. 3 abbs. 3 prussiks.

Marlow 13m. — " —

Marlow 50m — " —

Marlow 45m — " —

28 July. Another walk to Arco, Jim & Martin.

By not exactly the most direct route, Toddled up to Ocu and then kept on going. Skirted around northern Fall of ~~PROPHET~~ <sup>Contra Ceja</sup> (1457) getting good view of Finca Valle on one side (W) and Mida de Redondiella on other.

Then down a Col and up other side roughly following ridge to South of Jau del Agua. We got a good view of the latter, which should repay investigation in the future. Midway up trail investigated a small shallow cwm snow-dug - Needs to be looked at - its on a flat bit near polder road.

Tuned de Sun at got to Vega de la Alameda, via a very long Pdise that carries open water. Long, long rough, Vandal water consumption high, Sun v hot. Excessive amount of marks per. Rapid descent by Jim staved in ~~the~~ for though roughly strongly was blocked by boulders.

Good dig for the future!!

Asked guys down to Refugio at Arco, Asked gear as returned down - Jans last disarraying for once up.

Jim

29th July Sunday

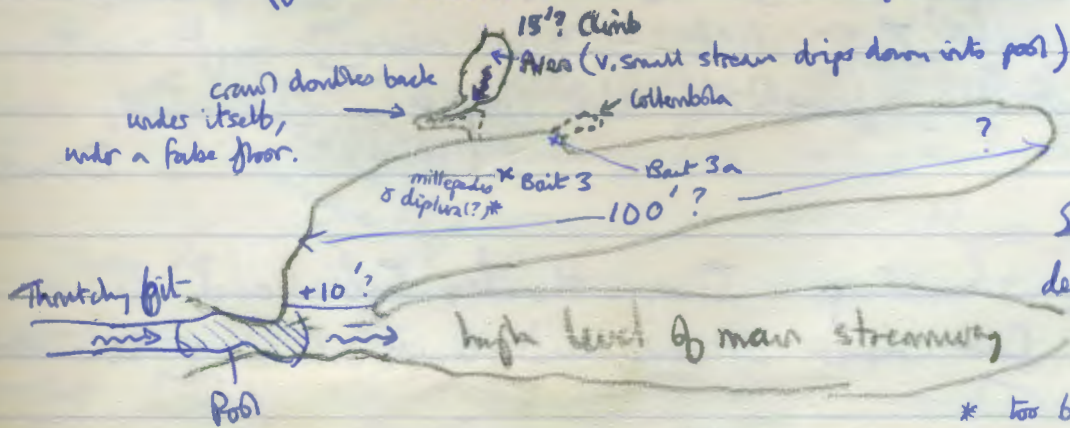
Cueva del Osu Sirian + Mike : Beattie & piecey trip.

To that a Traps with Coynish yielded absolutely nothing. — changed their positions  
~~to that a~~ trial Osu party can examine them. Bait is now in the  
following places (check with Mike) :-

- 1/ Pebble bank before obvious false floor just after T-junction
- 2/ Just after false floor, on pebble bank.
- 3/ In chamber off to left just after bit thortchy bit of streamway (downstream).
- 3/a 10' from 3/ (to left as you face 3.)
- 4/ In large chamber in streamway (nr Dago's camp (tip))

- Prises taken of -
- 1) 'Cave coral' nr Skippy & Sirian inlet.
  - 2) Streamway just downstream of T-junction.
  - 3) Pretties soon after above.
  - 4) Martins' white bits, millipede habitat & me playing with a dead millipede.

Skunk's crawl off the chamber mentioned in 3/ & 3a above was looked at:-



\* too bloody small to tell.

29th July Completed surface <sup>survey</sup> above Ocu. Took in Ocu main valley towards Ario, near the entrance; the valley immediately above final camp; - and the valley beyond the east ridge and "cave J." Prior to surveying, a bit of poking about in entrance of Ocu itself rooted out a large carabid beetle - near entrance "leafage," about 10m. in. One of the sinks in valley above camp seems to go. Descended 35-40 feet and still had space beneath feet. Reascent of the rift proved somewhat tricky with one arm in plaster. Returned to Encina - and, more importantly, to the bar - at about 7pm.

H

29th July Sunday, Daves Entrance to Ocu, Dave and Colin After having been thwarted in our attempts yesterday to make the Ocu connection suggested by Shunk by Pete's last driver we returned with spanner and successfully descended into upstream Ocu. Surveying was completed to a known survey point in Ocu and then the cave was detangled, a very laborious task ~~with~~ what with rifts, 20m of stiff Bluewater <sup>1.5m</sup> and 2 prusik bags, transported by only 2 people. On the way out tape measure was ripped off <sup>flit</sup> while negotiating a rift and it was not possible to retrieve it. This left us to carry out last measurement by knocking the rope. 6 hours, very tiring.

Dave

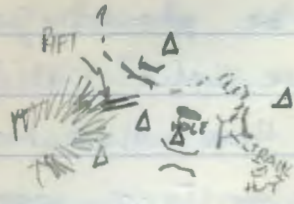
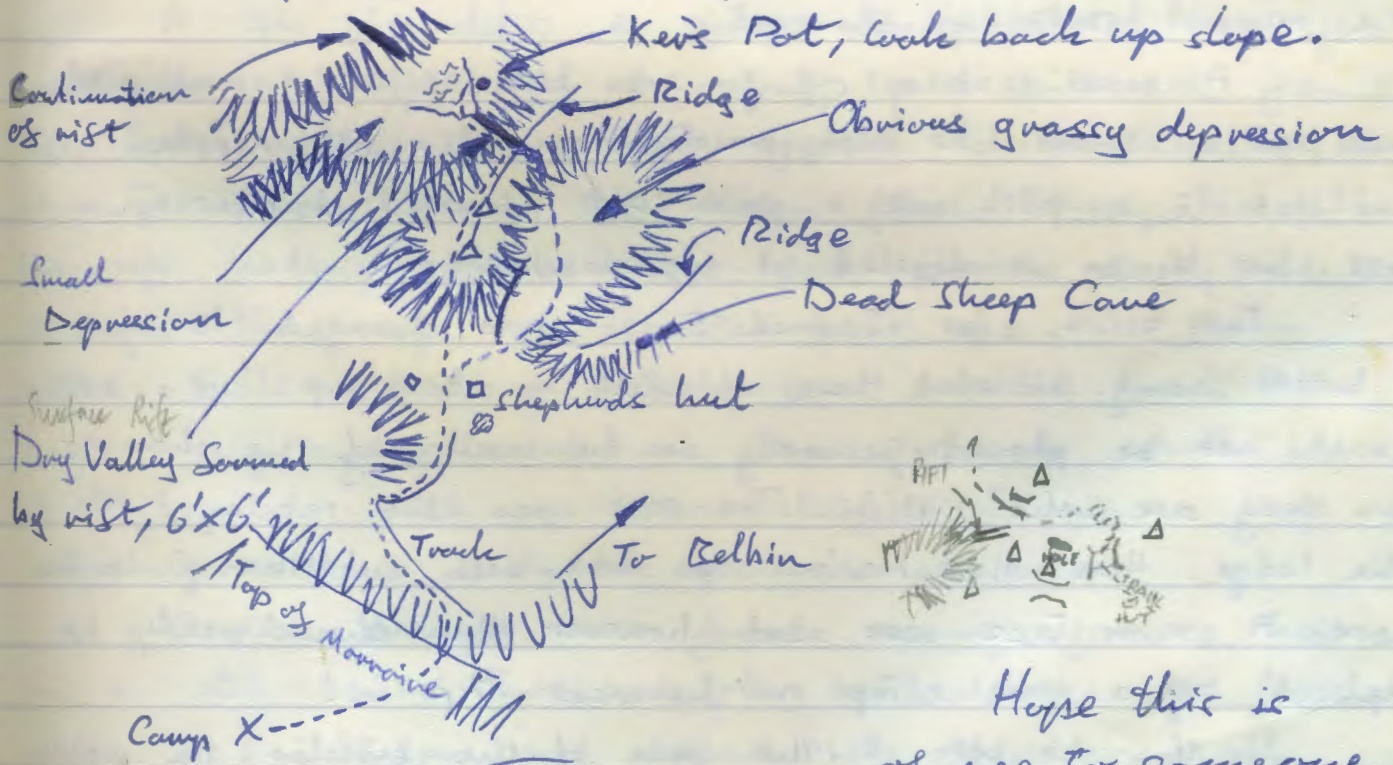
29th July Sunday. Jim, Monk, John and Simon Got Saw Ario at various times during the day.

30th July Monday.

Martina, Pete and Kath left early in the morning. It is to be hoped that Pete had recovered from the ~~loss~~ impromptu leaving party of Sunday night ~~and~~ after having left his dinner in various quantities and states of digestion around the camp site!\*

30th July Monday.

It is now 11.30pm and we are waiting up for a group who have ~~been~~ been pushing down Kev's Pot. The entrance is not obvious so for the use of the people who may have to rescue the rescuers, here is a sketch map of 'how to get there?'



Hope this is of use to someone

\* removed Courtesy of rent a cow, Dave.



Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Pessimists Pozu.

Party:- Skippy, Skunk, Kev.

Time:- 12 1/2 hours.

The continuing saga of Pessimists Pozu. A late start was made despite getting up early and we were down at 11:30. Half way down the 2nd pitch Skippy investigated a crawl leading off from the floor forming the eyehole. This led to an aven and voice contact was established with Kev who was at the bottom of the short tuckle crawl ladder pitch. If this can be rigged with an SKT rope it will make ascents + descents easier and quicker. However this cannot be done until the original route is surveyed.

A crawl leading off from the base of tuckle crawl pitch leads past a breast like stal formation complete with nipple and led to a pitch into a fair sized decorated chamber. This will have to be investigated at a later date.

The belay for Surprise Shaft was changed to give a better hang. However there is still no back up as a bolt could not be placed securely in the walls of the chamber as they are solid? calcite. The rope was also rebelayed at the ledge. Here the Marlow rope had been cut through to the core. A sewn tape was used however this should really be replaced by a wire stop on the next trip in.

In the chamber at the base of the 'bisector' the pebbles were looked at closely during a break for a nibble of chocolate. They found to be fluorite rounded and shaped by

past stream activity. Some angular crystals were also found which due to their hexagonal pyramid shape had the geologist? (Kev) guessing. Dad still has!

Then to C2, Kev took one look at it and the epic Skippy was making of getting through it and said "you ain't bloody well getting me through there". However after a grunt, a groan, a fart and much abuse he exited into C2 grotto. His fine pea soup coloured overcoat was now a two piece.

Throughout C2 grotto it is difficult to avoid damaging the formations and I think it would be wise to consider a photographic trip before many more are broken and muddled.

A 5m free climb is quite straightforward once you know where the footholds are, but looks awkward from the top. Soon after is a short exposed traverse around a 12m pot down which the stream flows. Skippy thought the rift leading off too tight and so the party climbed up into the roof, over a stal bank and then down again. Quite a strong draught was detected here. An angular very muddy crawl was then followed which led directly to a pitch of approximately 27m into a large chamber. Without tackle the party turned back.

Another draught was found issuing from a hole in a stal bank. This had to be enlarged to facilitate entry and Skippy and Skunk set off down with the ever faithful hammer in hand. Kev sat down in disgust saying that this pot was gradually making