

Pippikui look like Duke Street. A gross exaggeration! Honestly!

A few climbs led back ~~back~~ to the original rift. Again enlargement was required in a few places. Once again time ran ~~short~~ out. There now remains one more flake to remove (we want a good man with a hammer) and then there can be seen a free climbable 5m wet pitch and then a small chamber overlooking the large chamber seen from the muddy crawl. Hopefully this will give us a better take off if bolts can be placed.

We returned to Kev, a poor lightless troglodyte suffering from a rapture of the depths and chilled. After a refill of carbide we made haste. It was a quick uneventful trip out, though both Kev and Skipper had trouble with their prussiking systems.

Now it is known what lies beyond 92 gear can be carried through next time and a good push made.

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

P.S It was discovered on the way out, largely due to Kev's persistence, that 92 can be bypassed by a climb.

The stinkie dilemma - A weeger's guide to the peculiarities of refilling one's carbide lamp.

Some time, you, the ever safe caver, are going to find that your stinkie goes out through lack of water. So, what do you do? I recommend you take a few tips from certain members of the O.V.C.C Expedition to the Picos de Europa 1979.

The Lavery method:- Simplicity itself. Spit in it.

The Skunk method:- Think of water. Allow yourself to be influenced. You wish to urinate now don't you? So get it out and piss in it. It's just the tool for directing a jet of waste water into so small an orifice. However some past lords' of the club was shy in Oseu and once again managed to piss all over his hands. Sorry Simon! And I shan't mention that you managed to piss all over a ~~suitable~~ club tackle bag at the same time.

The Kev method:- Find the muddiest pool you can find. Take a mouthful of water. Choke. Swallow.

The Kev method (ii) - Take your glove off. The one with the holes in the fingers. Fill it up from a suitable pool. and milk it, cow-like, into your stinkie.

The Fowler method:- Find a clean pool of water. Take a mouthful and by compressing your cheeks (No, not those you fool!) squirt the said water into the container.

The Pete method - Find a deep pool. Immerse stinkie till water container full. Whoops. The flint is wet. The jet is waterlogged. Your stinkie doesn't work.

Cavers are famed for their ingenuity I'm glad to see this tradition being carried on. Have you any to add?

Pete's method Mk. II. Stuck in dry part of cave with no water.

- 1) Remove Wellie
- 2) Asphyxiate colleagues with vile smell
- 3) Pour putrescent liquid from wellie into stinkie
- 4) Complain your carbide lamp smells odd.
- 5) Pass out.
- 6) Stinky goes out.

Kev's method Mk III.

- (i) Allow stinkie to fall off when traversing across deep pool in wet cave eg La Madre
- (ii) Immerse body to feel around with feet for stinkie. This may take some time.
- (iii) Raise stinky from depths. See if full of water. If so then repeat (i). If not then begin anti-hypothermia treatment.
- (iv) Pray stinkie lights.

* been down Osu pricing & beanie collecting
with Mike till 7pm.

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Ario report No 2

28th Sat : Various loads carried a variety of gear up to Ario
& left it in the care of Manuel in the Refugio.

29th Sun : Jim, Mark & John 'strolled' up to Ario following
John's steaming wheels. Camp was pitched right next to the Refugio.
Mark waved a tearful goodbye as J & J wentaving down
their point cave (now named Pozo de Xitu). Jim buggered his
Penny Retsl driver at Pitch 3. Meanwhile Mark prepared
the meal & Simon* arrived late as usual (but still in time
for the food!) At this point Jim was snorting about camp
muttering darkly about bolts — basically there were only about
3 bolts at Ario.

30th Mon : Up early. ~~Simon went down to Los Lagos~~
Burr's noise was at 5am with unbelievably loud braying
just outside tent : apparently he's a rinky ♂ & there's a
desirable ♀ about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away down valley. For a good
simulation of the noise ask John.
Simon went back down to Los Lagos (cries of Superhero please).
Mist was met shortly after viewpoint & from there on condition
got worse & worse.

In Pozo del Xitu modest paraplegic Jim banged bolts in
with an abandoned gay (sorry — gay abandon). Eventually the
triumphant ^(due?) trotted with tenacity towards the traditional tent.
An interesting feature of the pot was discovered as the party

excited : the sudden thundering sound heard at the 3rd pitch which John at first thought was Simon coming through the rift turned out to be a 2' high wall of water. While Jim was deciding which of his bolts to hang on to, John pissed off at a tremendous rate.

That evening Simon arrived late again but equipped with bolts galore, Vivir Tinto & other vital carrying equipment. Oh yes - Mark & John surveyed Xitu to top of 70' pitch.

31st Tuesday : Pozo del Xitu again. Jim & Mark - bolting & pushing.

Simon & John - surveying.

Rapid descent to top of 70' pitch where Jim put in a back up bolt on 70' & traverse. Began surveying. A bolt was placed at the point Jim reached on Monday & a 5m pitch descended. A climb down led to another larger pitch which was rigged with the B/W 50m. Survey party had caught up by this time & the last station was marked on pitch edge, opposite belay. Jim & Simon descended the pitch - prob. about 60' in all, to a loose section of big rift. Another pitch almost immediately of ~30'(?). 60' pitch will however need careful rigging - probably a bolt halfway down. Since we were now rather wet & cold it was decided to exit. Apart from carbides playing up exit was really quite pleasant : descent rigs make most of pitches easy.

Left campsite for Los Lagos at 7pm & met Al & Dave with news that there was no Arco party coming up that evening.

Simon

Tuesday 31st July

None Anio group did nothing. The Kev's Pot ~~possession~~ of the previous day nested. The nest used the excuse of no candle ~~to~~ go stopping yet again. During the day it was decided that we would be spreading our selves out too thinly if we had groups simultaneously in Anio, Primo and El Mazuco. This was bound to annoy the group already at Anio who had already made previous arrangements but we went ahead none the less and sent up only three people to Anio to inform the other groups what was happening. Much argument was expected from both sides but happily the situation was quickly resolved that evening when it was decided that 2 people should return to Anio for surface surveying, 4 people should pay a courtesy visit to El Mazuco and the remaining 5 should pack and survey Pessimista Pot.

Wednesday 1 August

Colin, Shunk and Dave; surveying down Pessimista Pot. Got as low as cut, with some nevigging and scowling on the way out. 2 1/2 hours.

Wednesday 1st August

Al and John tramped up to Anio and set up the base lines for Al's superb 1:2000 scale map of the area. A few newly ^{discovered} pots were also descended by John and the results noted. John.

Wednesday 1st August

Skippy & Mike - Osu

Time - 3 hours

This was a quick tidying^s - up trip.

We made a fast descent to the bottom of the 30 m pitch and then Skippy hurried on to the first sump, where he made a sketch survey of the locality. I followed slowly behind him, looking at the baits set by Simon three days ago - there were even a few beesties caught (and some more, which I missed or squashed!).

We met as Skippy was finishing his artwork, and hurried to the top of the 30m pitch, which was de-tackled (before S.U.C.C.'s Bluewater went missing). The nasty handline which replaced the pilfered ladder was also removed, and we exited from Osu for the last time. Three Cheers!

Mike Busheri

Thursday 2nd August

Dave, Skippy and Mike. Surveying in Passimisto Pot. A late start, though not so long after Colin and Shunk had departed for the same pot brought us to the entrance of PP at 2.15. Our initial objective was to rig a bypass pitch to the lower 2nd, 3rd and 4th pitches which we

did after bits of struggles by Dave and Mike at the top of the new Ind pitch. Technique; if you can't get your bum through the upper right part of the crack, squeeze through the lower left with arms by the side of your body and ventral shoulder to the left of the downward projection. After all this, we found that the new pitch has numerous out points and is not very advantageous other than saving a few ladders here and there.

We managed to ~~the~~ survey the new route despite the fact that the baseline ~~compass~~ in the compass was half hanging off and jamming the motion of the dial. We connected back to a known survey point done on Wednesday's trip. We then surveyed the 2 areas at the end of Mammy's passage (Bottom of Tumble Pit, the ex Ind pitch) and below the pitch below the passage. No direct connection (link to be respected by author) was found. At this point it was found that we would not have enough time to start surveying on the main drag at Cst, the last point reached yesterday. So we made our way slowly out, taking picnics on the way (Dave fondling 'tit' for example) and arrived back at 10 pm

Dave

Thursday 2nd August; - Arnie Party.

Al took several surface readings until mist came down at 2pm while John ^{found and} poked his nose into ~~and~~ several holes in the area. After lunch (Curies of "decadence!" etc.) of Pate' butties Al drew up his survey in the Refugio while John searched for holes in a small depression. Again mist defeated the afternoon's attempts. After a meal of Beef & Curry? and Rice, John departed for Base camp at 6pm while Al finished his map of F. (He claimed he'd done about 1/30 of the necessary work: - he should still be here in September.)

John.

Here follows a stuck-in report of the Arnie Caves so far: -

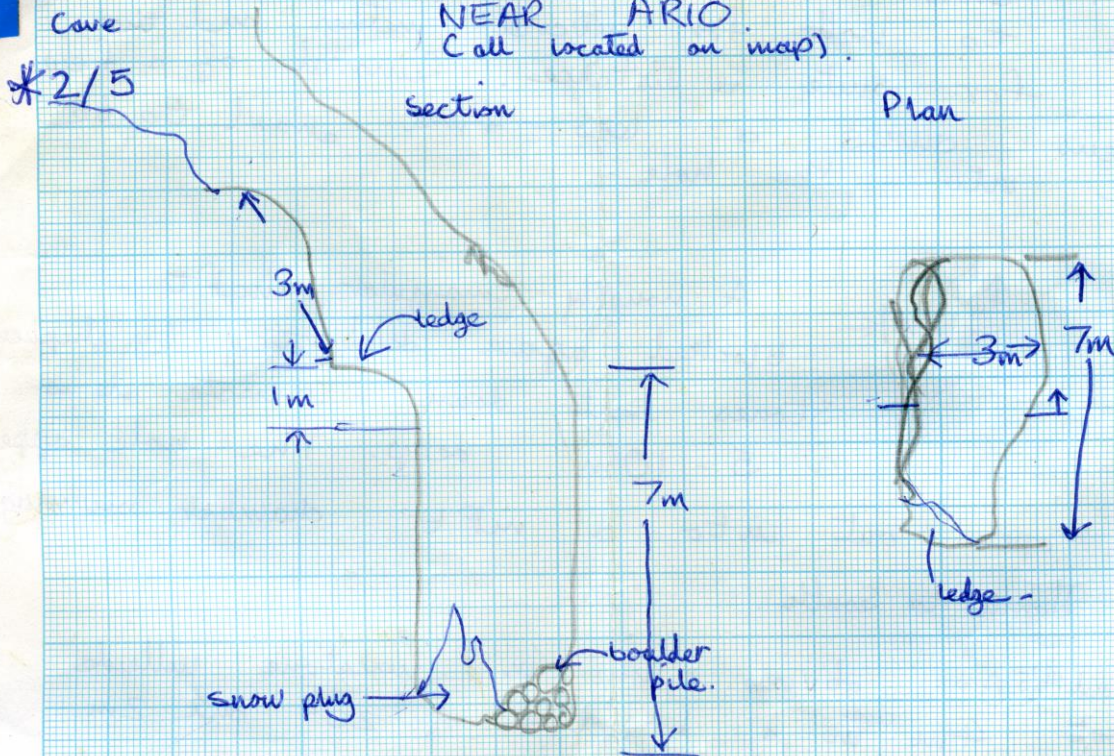


Friday 3rd August: - 2-19pm and still the pushing party hasn't returned. Could this be a mission for the rescue party?

BRIEF NOTES ON ENTRANCES

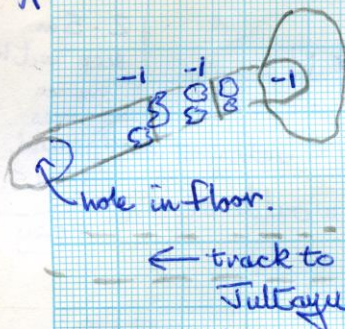
NEAR ARIO

Call located on map.



The ladder was belayed to a dubious boulder about 3m from the entrance. A descent was made to the ledge but no further progress could be made due to lack of ladders etc.

* Cave 3/5.



A rift can be descended for about 10m over a few boulder covered snops. A hole in the floor seemed to lead on for several metres more. The razor-like walls and ones regard for ones fell walking gear caused the abandoning of the penetration attempt. This cave is definitely worth a revisit.

Cave 6/5

A 5.8m x 2m x 3m high rift leading nowhere, being partially open to the air and generally not worth noting. The descent was again dubious. The only interesting thing was ~~the fact~~ that this cave seemed to be a surface continuation of the rift in 3/5.

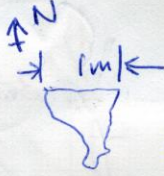
Cave 7/5

A narrow rift running N & S, the one to the left being too tight and the one to the right chocking straight away. Probably a surface feature covered with boulders.

* indicates worth another look with appropriate gear.

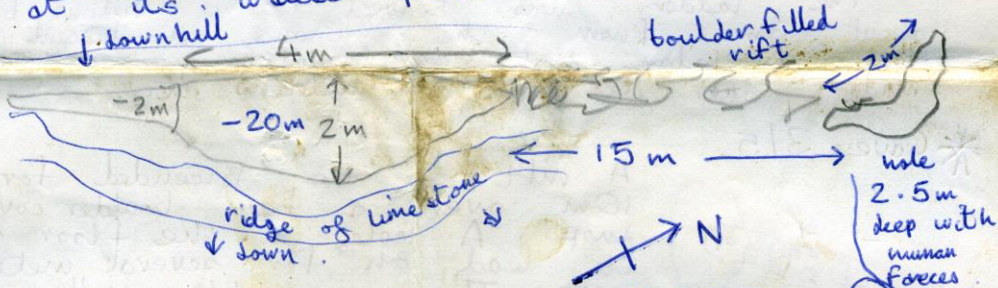
*815. A deliberately blocked hole at the base of a cliff about 15m west of 7/5. Stones sent in seem to roll for several metres and then fall for quite a distance. Removal of a few boulders allows a leg - first crawl to be into the hole.

*915.



A roughly triangular shaft blocked again deliberately by shepherds. Stones sent down indicate it is $\sim 5-10m$ deep. The hole appears to open out into a rift chamber running \sim North to South.

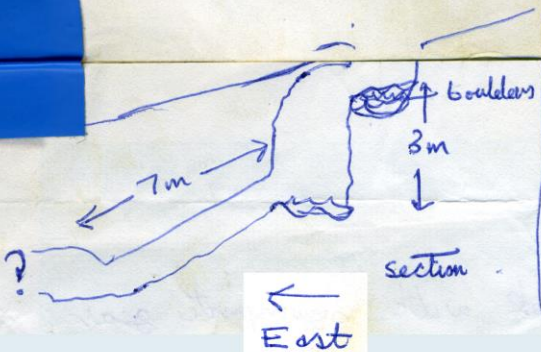
*10/5 and 14/5 An obvious hole in limestone hillside about 4m ^{wide} in a direction of 20° and 2m wide at its widest part



14/5 is a hole 2.5m deep which bells out ^{now} called 14/5. A ~~choked~~ rift choked with boulders would be an easy way down into 10/5 if clear.

11/5 is a strongly draughting boulder choked hole under a snow plug in a deep ravine. Several other boulder choked holes emerge in ravine.

*215 is an obvious hole 1m x 0.5m in a depression in stratified limestone East of the path to Jaltayn (running South). An easy 3m climb down leads to a boulder ceilinged chamber 2m x 1.5m with two small holes (easily climbable down) which seem to go for more than 7m down.



13/5 is rift ^{0.5m wide} just below survey point P. The rift is about 7m deep appearing to bell out at the bottom. Possibly an enlarged dirt (or ice) sinket.

No!!!

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Thursday 2nd August Perrinito to Pozo - pushing party

Skunk + ^{Colin} Winnie

Eventually managed to leave bar after statutory "caff on crap" and to the amazement of the weegee's staggered off in the direction of Perrinito. Went down at 1:30pm. Arrived GII passage 2:15pm. We then proceeded to the rift for some minor adjustments to the calcite with skippy's 2lb lump hammer. After 1/2 hr. searching for where I was supposed to be bashing I started leaving the hammer. Half an hour later, with 2" of flake removed and my right arm absolutely knackered (I haven't been practising much lately) I let Skunk in to have a bash. A mere 20 minutes later he'd got through the squeeze into the rift, but just a few minutes after that he'd got past the obstruction without further bashing. We dropped down about 3m to a shelf over a 50' (?) pitch with no visible belays, having spent 1/2 hr. looking for natural belays we resigned ourselves to two bolts in the calcite (yuk!) the pitch is clean but wet, and opened into a chamber 50' x 30' with a lot of large boulders and a lip over a 100' drop. The lip is surrounded by very soft laminar material (viz Black Reef Yarks) which is easily removed. Belaying on to some larger boulders in the chamber Skunk descended. I called to him that the rope appeared to be rubbing but he thought it O.K. On my descent 12' from the lip I noticed a gash almost through the sheath of the Marlow. Oh well, the outside of my Damart was dirty before so it didn't matter that the inside was dirty as well now. I changed over & prussiked back up (Thank you New College Gym) re-rigged the pitch and waited at the top - ^{using the} excuse of wanting to do something about rubbing points if there were any to cover my cowardice about going down & (and back up).

pen top