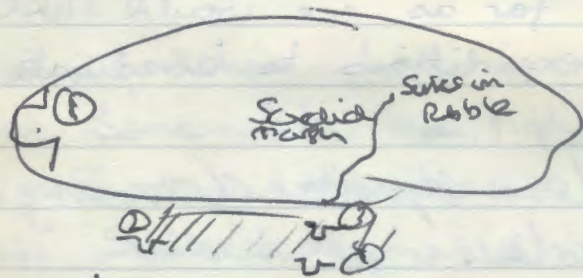


Sat 11th August

The perambulations of Jim. Having developed a bad case of Caverns Elbas Jim decided to look for 'Pozos muy Grande' on the surface. Alas for such illusions!! A gentle amble up the lower slopes of P. La Rosa followed by a determined attack on the Arbo Harrope of Ca. Salgado de oris via the S.E Slopes led to lunch above the 'Cue del Agua'. This contains Agua and no Cueva. A careful descent down the Piedras Quebradas led our cavernic explorer to Los Hornos del Sordo - which are very.



Los Hornos de Sordo

- ① - Very impressive Cave
Blue Cave - Feet dead
in shir
- ② ③ ④ - see v. high
in penetrable (by one or more
cynical) entrances.

Heavy S.E. 'las Fuentes' was reached - which is a bit of a sore as there isn't even one Fuente. Beyond the Fuentes - about 1km 'is a shaft in the N side of the valley. Conversation with SIF later revealed that it is from an bottom at - 60m. Further shuffing our party began led to the Xira at the path home to Arica.

Saturday 11th August. Pozo del Zitu.

Pushing Party:- Skunk, Mark, John, and guest Francisco.

Time:- ~~11~~ hours.

It was decided to invite one of the SIE down our new discovery in order to improve and cement relationships between OUC and the SIE.

After waiting 1/2 hour for mark to finish his marathon crap we set off. Francisco did not like the entrance rift and had ~~quite~~ a thrutch before getting through. However once past there he was ^{certainly not quiet!} found to be a good caver and very competent at SRT.

We quickly made our way down to virgin territory and Skunk banged a bolt in at the head of a small pitch and put a 5m ladder down. It was then necessary to free climb from the bottom of the ladder to the base of the pitch.

Another 50m of white calcite banded black limestone streamway led to the head of another pitch. About 12m. By traversing over the top an easier route down was found and also the old streamway carrying on. Mark and John investigated the old streamway and Skunk descended the pot on a handline.

The old streamway led to yet another pitch approx 20m and the active streamway also led to another pitch about 7m followed by yet another of unknown length.

We were unable to go any further with the fackles

available, ~~B~~ bolts were banged in at the head of both pitches. The first pitch was not really a headline pitch.

The strange thing is that ~~they are~~ the streamways old and new are going in different directions. Pozo del Xilita will need some determined pushing and surveying if it is going to be completed this year, and then that will only be the main drag.

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

Saturday 11th August.

Surveying Party:- Colin, Simon, Kev.

Time:- 12 hours.

Surveyed as far as climb down into cross rift in fossilised streamway.

Mark bugged his fingers

Sunday 12th August.

Surveying Party:- Colin, Kev, Skunk. Time:- 11 hours.

Surveyed as far as short ladder pitch in streamway.

No problems except Colin's ^{floating} vlog dropped down a pitch necessitating descent, recovery - Kev.

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

Sat 10th Aug (cont). Surveying Party - Colin - Simon + Kev

On second pitch Colin managed to drop the tape down the pitch before the reading was taken! At end of the

ropes, I went down the blind jet descended by Jim a few days ago with Colin's carbide since mine was duff. Descent was made with little trouble. Pat does with minor tickle at the bottom leading left as you face rope from top of pitch. On way up, I caught the carbide on the rope. "Tinkle, crash, crash, crash, clump! Oh, shit!" Since I was near the top I pussed up, got Simon's light, (the last), then descended. I found the carbide but the jet had fallen out. With little hope of success I searched for it, and about 5 minutes later noticed it among pebbles about 5m below the carbide! Somewhat lucky. Si + Colin were a bit cool by the time I had got up thus there was little enthusiasm for survey. Not Skunk + Co who skinned no main drag. Decided that with limited time available we can only hope to survey main drag, noting meters ~~at~~ on the way.

-Rev.-

Sunday 12th August.
Simon, John :- Pushing.

A quick descent was made to the cascade through the flakes where light trouble occurred. Chaos followed as a pricker was lost among the tackle bags and N billion metres of rope had to be unpacked to find it.

On arriving at the handline pitch the 45m Marlow was rigged on Skunk's bolts. The second pitch and the third pitch were also rigged and a descent made

to a rifty climb down into a pool. Simon
climbed down using the Marlow as a lifeline
and found some excellent cave pearls and
another pitch: A rapid retreat was then made
with only one mishap:- One of John's rope
walker cases descended. all the Edelweiss pitches
very ~~rapid~~ quickly ^{accompanied by much cursing.} Time out: - 12-30 am
IS.

Monday 13th August
Skunk, John:- Pushing.

Pozo del Xile

The party got down to the climb down
into the pool reasonably quickly and Skunk
followed the stream down a small hole
to the right of the passage. Ten minutes
later he emerged looking like a drowned rat
proving that it wasn't a feasible way on.
Skunk and John each banged in a bolt
at the top of the cave pearl pitch
and John descended the 30m Marlow
to another pitch in a rift. It was then
decided to go out and so John prussicked
up the rope; losing another rope walker at the
top. Much cursing followed as John descended
again and grubbed around at the bottom.
The party got out finally at 11-30pm
IS.

Skippy, Jim, Mark, Dave and Mike took A1 to Arriadas

Tues. Aug. 14th

Xitu

Pushing party - Shippy, Simon & Kev.

Despite this being Skip's first time in Xitu we made rapid progress to the limit of exploration. 2 good natural belays used. ^{27m pitch} Skip descended first then Kev. As Simon was descending a huge rock flake peeled off from near the head of the pitch. This makes it easier to climb off. Downstream there is a 4m climb down with a difficult take off and very dubious rock on the right. Almost immediately there is another climb which is worse than the last. A policy of not trusting any footholds is probably wise, but you don't get down (or up) that way.

A few ~~in~~ couple of 2m or so climbs leads to a 5m marlar pitch which can just be climbed ^(take up) using a cog. After about 5 or 6m the stream drops over a clean washed slope. 2 belts. Main good, reserve pretty bad! In banging in the second bolt the screw thread in the driver shaved! Since I had messed up the reserve, I was closed to go down. Just enough rope. Pully about 20m. I looked downstream in narrow passage. Water drops into impenetrable life down to the left. Dry tube goes straight on then drops 4-5m to boulder pile. Stream in life is about 2/5m down to left. To right there is unstable boulder rubble with small black hole which may be a way on. Passage above boulders is fairly large but streamway is v-small and somewhat non-pulsing.

Finally smoothly: back to 25 pitch I took bluewater up. Then Si came up. Managed to drop carbide down! At top got rack tangled up in floating cam which took ages to shift. When Skip came up we managed to get Si's light working again. Rope walkers moving very slowly. At 3 meters

pitch. So left cans tall to crab at bottom while Skip had to bring up. Skip took a while ascending. Hauled Bluewater to top of Pearl Pitch. At top of marlans another can of food + some sandwiches! From Above on I decided to go last to wet - nurse the unmanageable ropewalking systems.

So dropped sheath of ropewalker down last Bluewater pitch. Painfully slow progress at with Skip reverting to knots in frustration.

Unfortunately one of my fox leaps burst on the 25th and the other went on the very last step at the top of the last pitch! Pretty lucky. Out at 3am into rain. Lovely.

Kov.

Not half-joking. — It is necessary to have at least one person with sit-stand for people with ropewalkers to get out at all!

Wednesday 14th August.

Dave John Mike :- Surveying.

~~Another~~ The intrepid party surveyed down from the ladder pitch to the bottom of cave pearly pitch uneventfully finishing at about 8 pm. "Oh it's only 4 hours out from here" quoted John. In the end it took about 6 hours accompanied by "Bloody useless Bluewater" "These pitches are disgustingly rigged" "F...ing" rope walker" and noises ranging from abortions

Colin and Mark took Jim to Clanes

(98)

without general anaesthetic to pigs being slaughtered by Mike. The party emerged at ~ 2 o'clock and had Skunk's Faberda before going to bed.

15th August

O.U.C.C. More quotations (besides the ones above) heard yesterday

Dave "Where's the bloody rope?"

John "I hold my own rope: - I'm a self made man"

Simon - "I think it needs pricking." ZS

Everybody took day off. John (down & up) and Mark (up and down) did some shepding

Aviso Memorandum

The reason that Mike and I and to some extent Al have not figured prominently in the ~~the~~ preceding pages is that we have been doing surface work at Aviso. This started on Monday 6th when we travelled up to Aviso after the great discussion of Sunday night. Immediately Al took us on a grand tour of the area covered by his celebrated map. This included up to a dozen possible paths, 50 or 60 survey points and various spotty paths all in the period of 2 hours. These we were supposed to commit to our photographic memories and revisit the following day to investigate further, whilst Al toddled off to the Lakes.

The following 2 days were spent in visiting

9 pots pointed out by Al, making rough notes on their possible carving potential and generally worked out if anything was worth further visits. Summary of this is elsewhere. We took 4 hours to find 19/5!

On Thursday we investigated two promising pots to as much as our limited tackle would allow. These were 19, the sawtooth cave and 2, the (ex-) cheese cave. Later in the day further groups came up from the lakes and we conducted them around the region.

On Friday we had a short trip to sheeping Bluewater to Jim and Shanks down Xita, then we returned to the lakes and shepherded / fastened / shopped until Monday evening when we returned to Avic.

Dave

Laeje - Good Map

Expedition caving - Excuses for not going - To be added to!

Person.	Excuse.	Marks out of 10.
Mark	'I can't get my ring off my finger.'	
Mike	'I went caving yesterday..... be fair!'	
Dave.	'My back is sunburnt!'	
Numerous.	'No carbide!'	Poor.
Skipper.	'I've got the squits!'	
John.	'I've got no money.'	
Colin.	'I've got to make a phone call sometime this week.'	
Pessimists	'No, not surveying again!'	
Pushing parties	- But I've only just gone to bed!	
Ropewalkers	- "Kev. refuses to hold the rope and collect our ropewalkers from the bottom of pitches" (Grouse! Grouse!)	Site-Stand Rules OK.
	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>Aug. 15th</u>	

Persa start rain in the morning made Si, Kev & Skipper change their minds about a plus trip to Xitu. We also only wake at 12-00am

Thursday August 16th

Today it took me 3½ hrs to get from Los Lagos to top of Tultayo and then to Refugio. What a hero. Took a few things back in a day-pack. I didn't eat too much of their prepared med. It was only lukewarm. I thought 3 bottles full a bit much for me alone, anyway. Threw the rest away.

Mark

Thursday 16th August

Okay everybody, the day you've all been waiting for! The last day of caring in Spain! Only one catch; the trip involves surveying, detackling and photographing much or all of the 12 pitches ~~and~~ and umpteen metres of passage of Xitua!

First group; Dave Colin and Shunk got up at 7:30am and after a few deep breathes and a bit of heaving about the bush made a reasonably easy entry to Xitua at 10am. We made quick progress down to the bottom of Pearl Pitch where our task of surveying was to begin. Colin went down the next pitch first and after a bit of a delay due to stinking socks, readings were taken. Shunk went down next but stopped half way, above a deep cut in the rope. This had been the result of one abseil past one abrasive point only! Colin had to wait while Shunk hurriedly prised back up and Dave went up Pearl Pitch to catch a spare length of Bluewater. The Manton was removed and the pitch rigged. Surveying was resumed after a delay of approximately 1 1/2 hours.

We continued downwards, occasionally in doubt as to whether we were following the path as pushed by Tuesday's expedition. The 'Chessy' climb

were eventually reached. On the lowest of these — shock, horror! Dave fell! (Haven't we heard that before somewhere?) Fortunately, considering the 17 pitches above us, not very low. He sustained only a bruised hip and a bashed knee and ~~so~~ so decided to take a rest from surveying for a while. Colin and Shunk moved quickly down to the previous limit of exploration (see Kev 14th August), pushed a little further and then salvaged back to the stricken cave. By this time the stricken cave had recovered somewhat and so, work completed and future possibilities studied, the I started the arduous task of detackling. We made our way slowly back to the end of the 'Meanders' and met Mike and John there at 10pm. Escorted at 3am onward. Survey puts depth at 353m; beats ~~anything~~ in England!

Third Group: John & Mike, after much deliberation ^(by Kev & Simon) decided that the first group would take 8 hours to reach the top of the Marlow pitches, where it had been arranged that they would meet the intrepid early party. J & M therefore entered Xill at 4.30 pm and duly arrived at top of said Marlow at 6 pm.

Precisely four hours and twenty-five minutes

Later, the surveyors actually gained the top of the Marlow and made a fairly rapid exit from the cave, leaving John & Mike to remove two lugs of soldered Terylene rope. The outward journey, although cursed by stinking fulmar caused by high water levels causing down the top few pitches, was not eventful, but I did get lost on emerging from the cave, and took nearly an hour to find the helipad. A rather enjoyable trip, in all. Mike.

What about the swearing & cursing??

2nd Party - ~~Photographic & De-tackling.~~
Simon, Kev & Skippy

There was some reluctance to enter the cave because despite our calculations we expected that we would have to wait for the other parties. Entered cave at about 14-30. Uneventful descent except skip dropped his 8 into the narrow rift below the traverse onto the 70' sidewalls. This was heavily rebuked by Kev. (cheers!)

Photos were taken v. slowly so waste time & resulted in everyone getting cold. More waiting and many bulbs used in shots in the dry upper series at base of B/W started to worry a bit since by about 8-00 pm the others had not appeared.

Eventually made contact after 10-00. Sent Dave & Co
 out, then Mike + John. I ended up abackling since
 the no-stand system did not need anyone to hold the
 rope! On the first B/W Skip dropped his floating
 clog ascender. With incredible luck to hit the rope
 I was holding and bounced into my trap. Thus it
 missed a chance of 20m or 37/5 in blind pots!!
 On the next pitch up I retrieved Skip's elastic
 cord which he didn't realise he had dropped!

Apart from these incidents the detaching went quite
 smoothly. The diff was a sad with all the gear.

Despite the "rather Enjoyable Trip" certain people
 were not seen returning to the pit to help Skip & I
 with our 2 bags, badders, & ~~ammunition~~ cases & 2 prussik
 bags.

Out by about 6-00 am for dinner / breakfast to
 visit + wind. Part of us left Mike at entrance as he
 insisted on making a neat job of coiling the entrance
 ladder.

Bye-bye Xitu. The photos had better be good!

← Ken.

Friday 17th August

Everyone tramped down to Los Lagos with gear. John and Skippy made the trip twice (super-heroes!)* and all the stuff was brought down by 8:00pm.

* Meeting an Irish Spaniard who used to live in Blackpool on the way

Tues 21st Aug: Colin + Martin - writing & debugging survey programme.
Dave, Mark, John, Mike → homes.

YAD 2839AD BHT TAW