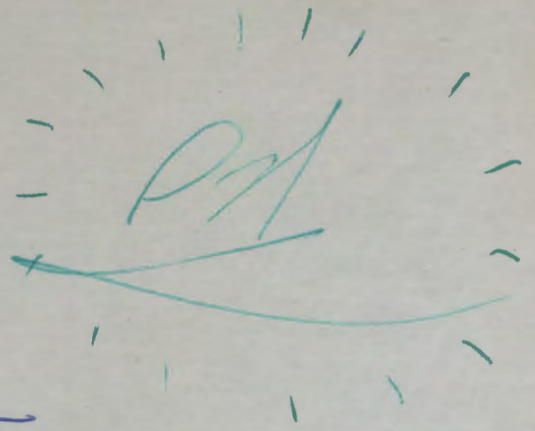


1993
BASECAMP

Black n' Red
Ruled
A4

Paul



Sean

Sam

Pivo

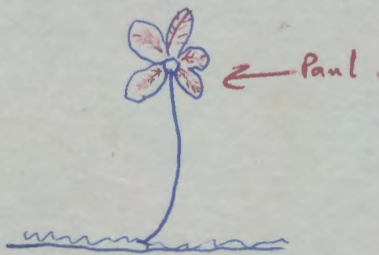
Fenella

Richard · Wilkin (again!)

Rob

Harvey

Chris

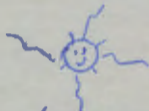


Katya

Steve

Tony

Steve



Kudi

Moham

Ilkay

Yehoram

Chris (he's at Arco.)

PP

29/6/93 Expedition arrives at Los Lagos at 8:00pm, with the ferry arriving at Diepe at 12:30am.

30/6/93. Sam and Paul go shopping, everyone else re-builds the camp. 2:30 the shopping has still not arrived, so we assume that they forgot to do the shopping before the shops closed. Time to go to Arica and write in the logbook.

Scan

30/6/93 We went to Arica first, filled the gas bottles (395 pts/bottle) & then got train & coach lines for Santiago.

Coach 9:05 (departures from Arica)

11:35

17:05

19:00

	Arica	Santiago
Train	9:46	→ 12:59
	17:07	→ 20:20
	20:08	→ 21:10

We then went to Cargas, did shopping etc, left for Rio Grande & the Ice Cream shop knew that we'd arrived, and showed David M to let him know we'd arrived safely (& to find out Juan José's telephone number.)

We were back at ~ 2:50pm! (Super markets open until 2:00pm, then 5:00 - 8:00pm.)

Everyone got some then did a carry to Arica, it started raining, and the bar had closed before we'd finished our dinner.

It rained all night, and all morning bar a brief spell at 11:00am, when everyone got up.

It is now 12:10 pm, and it is raining more.

Water, water, everywhere

Rob

Sun.
4/7

Well, many days have past and its still raining. It paused briefly, the sun even shone for about 3 hours, but now its raching again. There were lots of tourists here yesterday and today, but I can't see them anymore because of the mist. On Friday some tourists tried to go boating in Lago Encina but the ICOWA man waved his radio at them and sent them back. There was a Guardia Civil landrover here today with its blue flashing lights on - but he went away later. ICOWA hasn't visited us yet - they have looked at our tents twice and driven off without talking to us. Perhaps after 32 years they know who we are...

Dave

Sun.
4/7

Rob would like it known that he has carried the following to Ario...

1. Tomatoes, whole, tinned, 2, small
2. Sugar, caster, bagged, 1
3. Milk, powdered, bagged, whole, 1 *
4. Oats, tinned, 2
5. Notebooks, some, writing, counts for the use of
6. Pensils, ditto
7. Calculator, accounts, for the doing of ... no sorry, surveying
8. Survey Instruments, 1 set, new
9. Tape, 30m, new
10. Himself + various bit and pieces of his own

Dave

* This a milk-POWERED carry?

Sun.
4/7

In case everything else gets lost I'll put the survey instrument calibrations in here too...

Set 1 New Clinometer 0 Compass 0

Set 2 OK/OK Clinometer 0 Compass +1

Set 3 STIFF/OK Clinometer +1.5 Compass +2.

Tape 1 and 2 are New Tape 3 has some marks missing but has been remarked

To get accurate result Subtract these figures from the readings in every case.

Dave



To avoid confusion, don't even think about using this information until you come to write-up the survey. All you need to do is note down which instruments you are using.

Important notice on the next page.

Callouts and other related matters.

For the second time I have arrived at Aris in thick mist after going caring to find an apparently deserted camp. In the mist, it is only possible to see the tent when you are standing about 2 meters from it. Fortunately, we all had whistles, so we managed to find Harvey, who was on his way to Ica, and regroup. By chance we stumbled across the tent.

It is much easier to see the tent if there is a light on in it. It doesn't need to be very bright, and it won't use much gas, but it will save you from being woken up by whistling ears.

This morning, after our 9 am call-out had passed, and we got up, I was shocked to find that the only other person at Aris was Rob. Did it ever occur to the more experienced people on the Expedition what might have happened if one of us had slipped and been injured. Even if we had only been slowed down, we would probably have run-out of light and been forced to stop. So, in the morning, Rob would have got up at 11-00 am, not knowing about the call-out system and probably started to worry. By now, Sam and Paul, the only other ears capable of doing anything about a rescue, had gone shopping. We would therefore have been underground for at least another 12 hours.

This means two things.

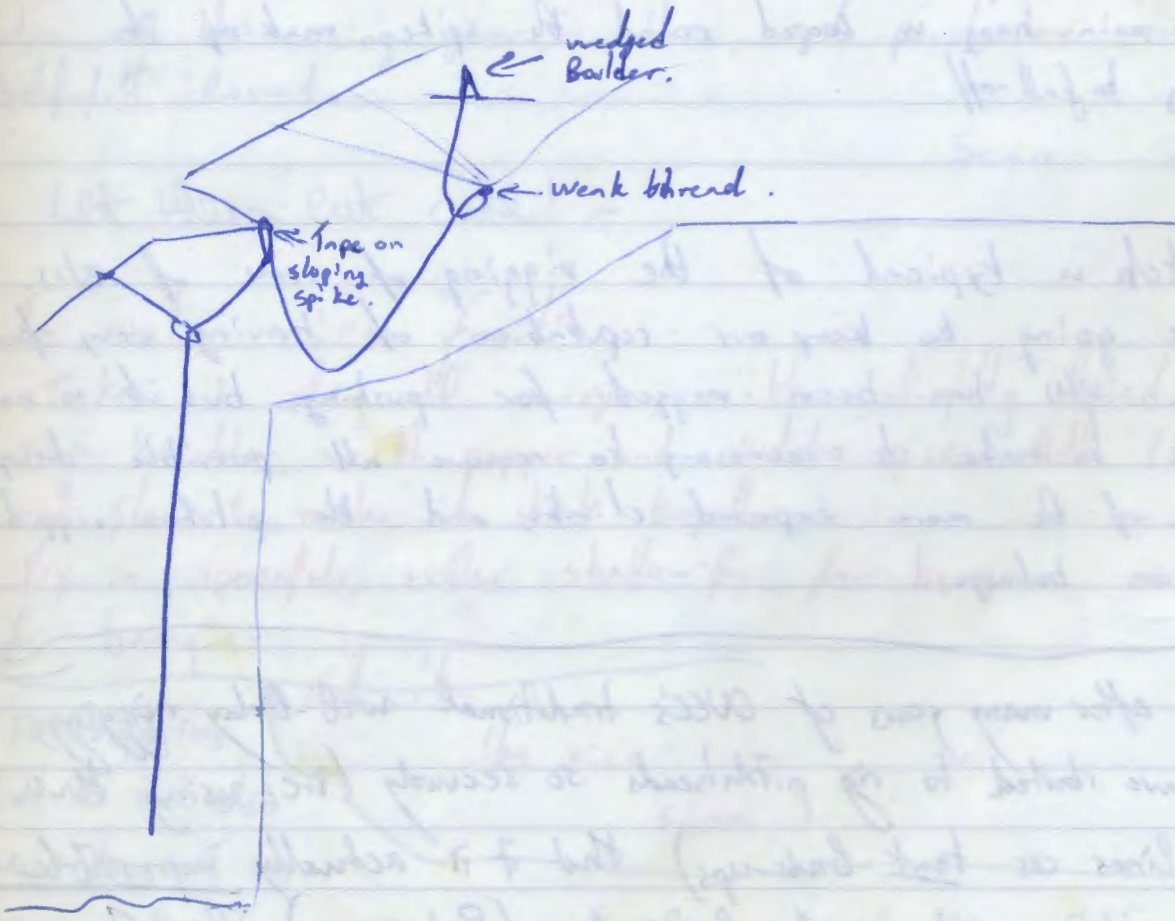
First, there should always be enough people at Aris by the time a call-out may occur to carry out a satisfactory rescue. This can be achieved by

making sure that there is a team prepared to go saving the following day.

Second, there is no point in writing down a 9 am call-out if you don't have enough carbide to last this long.

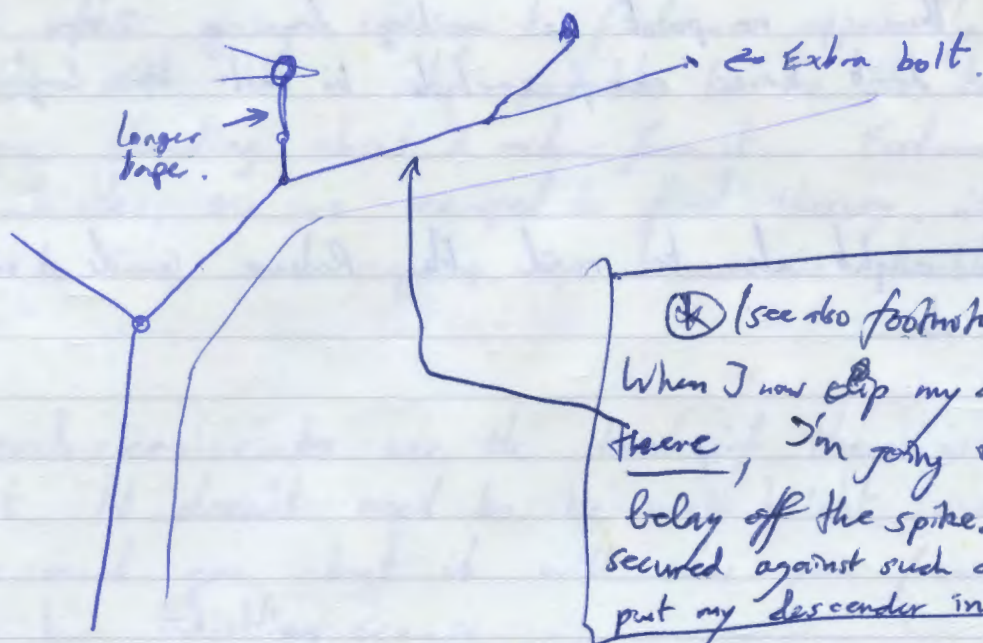
Everyone ought also to read the Rescue Guide, so they know what to do.

How to rig a pitch, by Paul Mann.



(b)

How to rig this pitch safely / although it can be improved with more rope.



This way, there is no slack rope above the main hang, the backup, also used as a descent over a steep slope is a Y hang, and the main hang is looped round the spike, making it less likely to fall off.

This pitch is typical of the rigging of some of 8/11. If we are going to keep our reputation of having very few accidents, 8/11 has been rigged for pushing, but it is now big-enough to make it necessary to remove all possible dangers, like some of the more exposed climbs, and the pitches rigged from dubious belays.

⊗ Comment - after many years of OCC's traditional web-belay rigging, people have started to rig pitchheads so securely (i.e. using the approach lines as taut back-ups) that it is actually impossible to go down on most types of descenders (Petzl e.g.). This of course makes the pitches very safe. Nevertheless I'd like to be able to go down a pitch from time to time. Remedy - install backups /

Yet more common sense from the Treasurer.

Over the past couple of days, it seems that 3 people have been unable to carry enough food to Aris for 3 people underground. This may be related to the eating of Cobs of vegetables for lunch at Aris by people carrying food.

It should be obvious that food is in short supply at Aris, especially at this stage of the expedition when there is a lot of carrying gear which who needs carrying up. In short, for those who haven't been told or don't know any better, try and avoid eating much at Aris, especially if you are only walking up and down. This can be easily achieved by eating either before or after walking to Aris.

Second, eat things like soup and pasta (i.e. dehydrated food) which is easy to carry, and don't do stupid things like cooking chips. It is acceptable to be more extravagant at Aris only when all the carrying gear is there, and people are walking up with half-full rucksacks.

Sean

Let them eat cake! a.

To make nice food:-

Take 1 day-old curry, with slightly dried-up rice-mix together, with pepper and vindaloo spice. Add 1 egg per person and flour to make it stick together.

Fry in spoonfuls, either shallow-fry for burgers, or deep fry for bany'as.

eat it.

lbs nice.

Sean

→ secondaries that do not also have to act as

traverse lines or even as abseiling ropes for the pitchhead ramps.

15/8/93

Uchard

(8)

Wed

7/7

Well finally the sun has come out at Lagos.
Not a cloud in the sky — but it's still cold.
I have moved some carts and moved the trailer. I have reorganised the Big Tent, moved the guy ropes to force people to avoid the worst mud, moved the van a bit — this was very difficult.

No matter why think very carefully before trying to drive the van over the grass when it's wet.

My washing is hung out — well not washed just wet. The puddles are almost gone, I have 'stolen' 2 pallets from the building site — there are 2 more for someone else to get later — they are quite heavy.

The puss from my ankle has dried up — it only hurts now it's not infected and septic — so I'll walk over to Haja La Madre to see if I can find it.

Dave

Note on helping stuck cars:

If you offer to help pull a car out of the mud and they want you to push it further on to the mud — do it, at least you can have a laugh.

If someone has genuinely tried to avoid getting stuck but failed they might as well get some help.

If you see someone drive deliberately and straight

into the small pool - (not the cow trap, but the small one next to it - some people may remember the very very large German Motorhome which was sunk in it last year) - then don't help, just laugh. It took about 20 people to get them out again, but the dozy woman driving it had gone straight toward it with out a care in the world and the front wheels had sunk in 24 inches of sludge.

Done

How to make a pan of something really disgusting looking:

Take the basic ingredients for Curried Lice Burgers, put into a pan, leave for 24 hours, open pan

Its horrid, wash it up now.

Done

Notes about cows

8.7.93.

- (1) They're better than English Cows
- (2) They are stupid and deserve to get eaten
- (3) They are quite tasty
- (4) They don't like being milked
- (5) They give milk and have horns or do don't
- (6) They protest a lot
- (7) They don't help much up
- (8) They require all British who were

rather
real conditions in a private manner prefer to eat grass than kill them with their horns

(10)

What we did yesterday at Ario:

Paul and I did a surface survey for 8/11 while the two new tape measure and things while all the tourists sat and watched what we were doing. Got sunset but not very much. Also 3 people not coming but I've only seen 1 of them since.

There is a big dragonfly sitting on my tent guylines

The day before, Fred, Paul and I dug out some big boulders and dropped the down a new hole in the ground with a Gopher and some rope etc. Below was a most Sarskey sized cave about 20 m deep with a slightly larger boulder chink at the bottom

Go

To have fun with tourists and cows, line up a suitable quantity of covers, behind a cow, and make a buzzing noise, while chasing the cow towards the tourists. Once the cow is convinced that it is being chased by a giant cow-eating-fly, leave it alone and it will happily work hard in the campsite.

Fri

9/17

In the back of the van there is a very big obvious pile of gear and food which should be carried to Ario today.

Done

9/7 Gavin and Richard arrived, with the mist and a thunder storm. Ice balls about 15cm across fell here and I had to rescue the sales pads. Someone went to sleep all day instead of going to Ario. I checked a way to activate chocolate with a primer and an amino acid. It worked. I cooked up a hot/sweet/sour stew and Richard and I talked to a Belgian girl at the bar, who was waiting for the sun to shine.

Done

9/7 Arrived at Los Lagos after travelling since Tuesday! Fortunately met some English speaking Spaniards at Santander who were travelling to Los Lagos! Wow! Their translation of the Spanish Bus lines was very helpful. Camped at Arriadas and met Gavin the following morning waiting for a bus.

Arrived at ~~Piso~~ Los Lagos - it was sunny, spectacular views etc and then rain, mist, hail, thunder etc etc. After a carry up to Ario returned for a night in the bar.

- On the way down from Ario we (Gavin + I) met
- a) Four Spanish secrets who warned us profusely that we might get lost in the mist.
 - b) 4 middle age women, shopping bags and newspapers in one hand, umbrellas in the other. They laughed at us and told us in broken English that we looked wet through!

Richard.

(12)

10/7 Walked to Hoyo La Madre, well tried to, it's very hard. Saw it, but couldn't get to it. Found and identified the other rivers we need to dye detect. It is difficult walking our limestone base covered with spiky bushed plants and vertical cliffs, were shopping in evening - very quick.
Dave

11/7 Rescued man in stuck car. He came over; said hello; asked about caves where, how, deep - yes; asked about ropes; asked if we had a car - yes we were standing next to it; asked for help. Honey and Finella watched; Paul tied 2 knots; I drove; we got 2 beers each out of it - excellent.
Made dye detectors
Dave

12/7 Paul and I disposed of Finella. We went to Cachimbaro resurgence to put detectors on. It's very cold, and a very long way below the path. 1 detector upstream, 1 downstream of the resurgence pool. Then we circumnavigated the central massif to get to the other end of the Corras to put in another detector. We went over a mountain pass at 1609 m.

13/7 Walked over to put detectors into the 2 rivers above Hoyo La Madre. The river from Bobbias had dried up, as had the 2 inlets. River Texu was the same as before. Hoyo La Madre found to be in bottom of gorge not on slope. Possible to close to it down dry river.

Done

14/7 Went to put detectors in lower end of gorge containing Hoyo La Madre. Hung 1 from a bridge about 22 km from Cangas - on a 25m length of string. As I was doing this a car stopped and asked in Spanish - 'Sir - where are we?' They were Americans. They had started in Arriandás, where they had lunch (pronounced Arreeonidas with the emphasis on 'ree' and a very short 'das'). They were going west to Oviedo but had driven East, through Cangas for 40 km to this point. I put them right. I wonder if they expected to find a British person in the middle of the countryside in Spain hiding a large ball of nylon string and a pair of scissors. I also put a detector in at La Molinera about 10 km back upstream - following the path from the village to the bridge - just downstream - climb down the inlet for access.

Done.

(14)

14/7 - Richard visits the shoe-menders:-

As one of my boots was falling apart I decided to try and get it fixed in Cuzco. After asking in the tourist information office, I was directed to a tiny shop next to a little restaurant. The shoe-mender was sitting in the restaurant's kitchen but when I waved my boot at him he got up. After pulling my boots further apart, and groaning and muttering he wandered into his shop and groaned and muttered some more. He then explained they might be mended the day after which, producing a huge pile and flinging away profusely at my boots. Will my boots be fixed? Find out tomorrow.

14/7. Sean goes to Texas:-

In the quest to place dye detectors in every available underground water source near 8/11, I was persuaded to rig Pozo Los Texas. Armed with 200m of rope I set off in search of Vega Mayor. After some confusion involving the Spanish habit of labeling contour lines with the numbers pointing north (rather than upwards) I asked a pastor for directions. He seemed confused, and kept telling me that it was big and round. Eventually he indicated that I could see it from the next ridge, and it had a tree growing in it. I found it at last, and finished my water. 1 1/2 hours later I reached Arico (It's a difficult walk, and I got lost) with the help of a helicopter which indicated the direction to Arico.

1 1/2 hours after leaving Arico, with SRT + rigging gear I was back. 1/2 hour to uncoil the rope and drop it down the shaft, 100m x 20m looking like just anyone with the lid taken off. 30m down, and one ball later I gave up, since it was already 7:15 pm, and the pit needed 2 more balls at least.

Sean

15/7 Sean + Dave go to rig the dry river which leads into the valley with Hojo Le Madre. We took 35+80m of 9mm, and some A/B wedges. A closer examination showed that the 80 was only 40m long, so we only got part way down.

16/7 Sean + Dave finish rigging Pozo Los Texas. It's still big, with promising looking tubes in the roof, 20m up. The stream is only a few litres/sec now, not 2,000 as quoted in the 576 report. It's dry now, though.

Dave found lots of loose boulders on the way up, one of which hit him on the arm. Placed a dye detector.

17/7. Sean + Paul take 155m + 10m rope to H2M, using the 10m on a hard climb. The second inlet shown on the map is at the bottom of a cascade, and opposite a resurgence 10-20m up on the opposite side. Placed wedge detector in the resurgence under (avoiding any flood water in the other stream). This route is not recommended if there is any rain, clay makes the climbing harder.

18/7 Sean + Dave look at the climb in Pozo Los Texas. Sean goes to Arico via sud 3, taking 4 hours.

19/7 Shopping trips in which Dave locks the car keys inside the car.

(16)

The numbers game.

- 1 Upstream Cullienbro Control.
- 2 Rio Los Texas ~~Detector~~ Control.
- 3 Downstream Cullienbro Control. - Broken.
- 4 Hoyo La Madre Control.
- 5 Upstream Cullienbro Detector
- 6 La Molinica Detector
- 7 Downstream Cullienbro Detector.
- 8 Rio Los Texas ~~Control~~ Detector.
- 9 La Molinica Control
- 10 Texas Control.
- 11 Texas Detector.
- 12 Bridge middle of nowhere Detector - lost.
- 13 Dry Control.
- 14 Hoyo La Madre Detector.
- 15 Bridge middle of nowhere control
- 16 Downstream Corres Detector
17. Downstream Corres Control

21/7. Sean is going to Pozo Los Texas, Hoyo La madre and then Rio Los Texas, in that order, expecting to return by 7:00pm. (depart 9-15 am).

There is no point doing the washing up if you leave it outside overnight & to be slobbered on by cows.

Sean

23002

21/7/93. Dye Detector Day.

Sean:- went to change the detectors above Hoyo La Madre. First time in Texas (1/13) with a carbide light. The cave is still too big to see the walls properly, but there seems to be a passage crossing the main tube about half way up the slope. Also worth looking at the 'passage' to the left of the rebelay. This looks like it goes some way into the rock. Got back to the top of the descent to HLM at 2pm, and took a long time getting to the bottom. There is a trap on the pool at the bottom involving absiding sideways to the side of the pool, and then slipping. It's quite warm though.

Found the Rio Texas detector easily, there is a 6 lane con-track at the far end, and it's very pretty.

I think I hurt my foot as well, so not altogether efficient.

23/7/93. Sean: Dave are going to Pozo Los Texas (see SIE report) via Arico. Returning to Lagos 24/7/93 10:00pm, callout 9am 25/7/93.

scan.

Hi I'm James And I'm your Camp Guard for Today Mo 26 7 93

Arrived down at base 11 am into clay and Scout did the washing up

Had a quick chat with the Hungarian about what was going down at Arico and pointed them in the right direction

After a couple of days surface surveying I've got a few finds. I give detail here as I'm not at Arico when in Arico Cave! P nose

(18)

GAVES

Sistema Small South and Rubber Clays

a very short through trip between two 3 M deep holes
15 M E of the climbing wall

See P.M.M. for location and No.

20/11 twisting rift below entrance to 8/11

marked SIE O possible connect into

8/11 below 3rd pitch?

23/11 was 21/11 but I forgot

open shaft below 8/11

~15M shaft to Slopis loose bouldery rift "Lands Cape

Gardening" explanation contains 2 TSC at S. Ben Phipps

22/11 Pozo de Shields

6 m pit to Vacaonow drop-in rift

21/11 was 23/11

small ent above 20 23/11

Fact: 8/11 is not Pozo Cabeza Tolayona

8/13 Pozo Cabeza Tolayona

9/13 hole North of PCJ (8/13) undecorated as + now

24/11 Surveyor's pit SIE O

25 M Hole above the resurgence

Surface Survey tied into 8/11 Survey

data in Survey note book

25/11

Small draughting dies in left (East) side
of long depression to west of big blowing hole and
27/11

26/11 The Draughting Rift
Pozu Mohandi
lower entrance to 8/11

27/11 Big Draughting Hole
Big draughting hole near 26/11

28/11 Small Draughting Hole
Small draughting hole N of 26/11

20, 23 - 28/11 we will travel into Rob and My Surface
Subway Sat 24 July

26/7/93

Pozu Los Texas. DRB + 15H.

Nice cool weather for the walk, for a change. Finished bobbing
the climb, and looked at another 'free' climb (an inlet). It doesn't
go, remaining leads are the sumps, and the thing to the left of
the 2nd rebelay - look at on the de-rig trip. Descriptions will
follow with reference to 31E report. Sean.

30/7/93

Gravin + Steve return from Top Camp,
having spent the previous 24 hours lurking
in a fast for the godawful weather. →

(20)

* Continued * !

Before the rain - wind started we found the mega entrances, in areas with no known caves that will probably feed into 2/7 & make it over 1000m! (Saps Cravin).

Actually they are very good. On one of them (F14) we couldn't work out how the F- they had managed to paint the number on - before we realised that possibly in 1984 the 70' 40m deep had maybe been full of snow -

We have cut up lots of rope and will go up to have a good crack at F14, F41, F5, F56 etc.

The walk down was miserable. We got had lots of super lentil burgers - thanks to the collective cooks. To die for. My fingers started to go numb. It's very cold.

And now - the tale of Cravin & his new landlady who wait see.

Cravin wanted to rent Mark Sherry's house next year. He wanted to share with a friend, who wanted to live somewhere not with his girlfriend or something. Cravin & friend turn up to Osney. Landlady looks at Cravin & his fair-haired softly-spoken companion. She decides they are obviously a pair of rampart [redacted] etc. She doesn't want [redacted] in her house, not at all...

So now Gavin has to find somewhere else.
Oh dear.
Oh dear.

Steve

I didn't say hello, but I'll say goodbye.
A good time!
Tara everyone, good luck, have deep ones.

Tony
Z

3/8/93

- 1 Large Green Tent with poles and pegs
- 1 Large Stewpot
- 2 Chopping Boards
- 1 Metal Shelf Rack
- 1 Metal Colander
- 1 Small Milk Pan
- 1 Folding Shovel
- 1 Pick shaped digging tool
- Some primus bits
- Innumerable bits of cutlery and sharp knives and utensils

I would like to apologise for an inconvenience I have caused to William, Steve, Gavin and Tony* - the people who have not yet done anything to upset me. I am sorry that my antics had no effect on the people who started this, but thats life...

* and Jim

Dave

3/8/93

Well, what can I say to prevail this logbook being one of the shortest in the club's collection despite the events of the last few days?

The list on the previous page is stuff Dave Bell reckons is his that he ~~wants~~ wants back when we get back to England. Dave & Sean left this morning, Dave is a bit mollified but still as pissed off with the expedition as a whole as some of the expeditions with him (i.e. Sean).

The I didn't get here till a week ago. I don't like the campsite & looking like nobody's done anything for days. The place was a complete pit. Also basically I guess I'm an expo-luddite, and all the Sean & Dave techno-stuff does nothing for me at all, especially as it doesn't work.

Nothing so queer as folk.

German Band (Jeka & Gerhard) arrive 0³⁰ am. 5/8/89 (23)

(Uneventful journey apart from a broken exhaust pipe...)

P.S.1 This campsite is tidy. Remarkably tidy. Unbelievably tidy. Unrecognizably tidy. Great job Steve & co!

P.P.S.1 It's so tidy I can't find the kitty....

P.S.2 We now have a British Base Camp (co-)manned by 5 people none of whom is British.

Steve " Paul, I've known girls with skulls tits
than yours"

Paul " Oh, like having a wash on an
ironing board"

Gavin " I've never tried it on an ironing
board..."

6/8/93.

Steve, Gavin, Chris & myself went to Cangas on a shopping/
ticket exchanging & buying trip.

Unfortunately Gavin couldn't change the ticket however I
managed to book a ticket for the Santander ferry. The lady
was most bemused when she asked me for my phone
number in Spain. -

R - 'I haven't got me'

L - 'But you must!'

R - 'I'm camping'

L - 'The campsite must have a number'

R - 'I'm camping on a mountain'

L - 'Oh!'

We did some shopping, walked over the Roman Bridge
and then visited the Covadonga resurgence on the way back.

26 Departures

Chris V is leaving on Wednesday 11th August
 Steve + William are leaving Friday 13th August.
 Gavin is leaving Saturday 14th August.
 Richard is leaving Monday 16th August.
 Hungarians are leaving Saturday 14th August.
 Top cars departed by Wednesday 11th August
 Ario cars departed by Friday 13th August
 Everything done till by evening Sunday 15th August
 Beach? / Trailer done till Monday 16th August
 Leave Tuesday 17th August
 Ferry San Friday 20th August

Chinese Babberes

What was I thinking?
- it should be Whisipes!

Paul; '... Beans, Green beans, like runner beans;
they'll have to go to Ario ~~and~~ before they go
rotten.'

Steve; 'Dreams, Dreams, Dreams; lay running dreams;
I'll have to go to Ario before they turn erotic.'

7/8/43

WHO:

- tears his hair out rather than comb it
- puts off rubber gloves for games with sheep
- puts out fires with paraffin
- throws up in moment of sexual tension?

Yes, it is all the same person.

Rising descent on Los Lagos a bit misty thickens & stays. Can we shake off 'bare camp latitude'?

Sam's only solution is to eat eat eat eat.

7/8/93 WHO: Pat & Steve

Where: Ceres & the lakes

Why: Collecting dye detectors

Observations

- 1: We picked up many useful things in Ceres,
 - i) Rope marking tape (but we used none of it)
 - ii) PVC adhesive, in a tube
 - iii) Gas
 - iv) Tearing paper - the nearest thing to 'Permatrace' or even grease proof paper, Ceres has to offer
 - v) A liter liter - but we let him go again.

2: Our first detector (a bridge between Molina & Carrera de Corales was here this time, but the charcoal dropped out as we raised the detector. We retained the fabric.

3: The detector at Anzós de Cibriles was fine

4: The bar at Carmameo doesn't sell Bocadillos

5: The chance of the ~~detector~~ ^{detector} 10^8 kg ^{between oversteering the pool} _{collapsing as you pass underneath is $1:10^6$}

6: The lower gorge path is good untl it runs out.

7: It is possible to climb to the main gorge path slightly after the lower path runs out.

This is not recommended for the elderly, the pregnant, those with a heart condition, those with a severe physical handicap, or young children. Steve & I persevered anyway.

8: The downstream Cautiembra detector was high and dry, its resting in streets, (as was the control, but that was in the stream), but the charcoal made a neat pile next to it. (Co ↓)

9: Several inches away, there was another downstream Cautiembra dye detector - this one rest in bushes, but simply a hole worn in its bottom. Charcoal was piled next to it. (Co ↓ 2). ~~etc~~

10: This is odd as we only placed one detector here.

11: The upstream Cautiembra detector could not be found, ^{even} ~~remains~~ string.

12: The chances of the ^{rather (or upstream)} detector being flooded away, and coming to rest adjacent to the former (or downstream) detector through natural fluvial processes probably exceed $1:10^6$

13: The chances of ~~both~~ detector wearing to the point of dumping its charcoal, and then the charcoal not being washed away (ie flood waters / destructive forces wearing just as the detector wears out) is slim. This happened twice?

14: The laws of 'Phillips Lady's Law' (2) would force us to favour non-accidental behaviour of some semi-ordered & rational system (eg human?) as the possible agent

in this otherwise unlikely occlusion of events.

15: The water of Couliandro is opposite to those with piscinary intentions.

16: The water is cold.

17: The water is even colder when you swim back into the reservoir ~~pool~~

18: I know this is advanced, so let Steve do the swimming.

19: The path back to the lower pool is easy, if you take the

correct one - and it saves climbing up hills of assorted pebbles falling!

20: Underneath the bushes we were narrowly missed by about 10' of ~~assorted~~ pebbles falling!
 21: Assuming ~~essentially~~ ~~aspects~~ ~~of~~ ~~operation~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~12/10/10~~ ~~clear~~ ~~of~~ ~~this~~ ~~occurring~~ ~~there~~
 22: There were many British Cubans in the gorge on this particular

day, some of them undoubtedly mad.

23: There were 2 inhabitants of Arenas de Cobres

24: There were 2 of Steve's friends a mile up the road

25: It was lucky there weren't any more, as we'd only roomed for 6 people in the van.

26: But we could have fitted another in, but only if one of them were a sheep.

27: Or goat.

28: They didn't really want to go to Martina, so we let them go again.

29: Martina is still pretty, but they're doing something to the edge of their dusty broods, with cacabe.

30: The dye detector here was also worn out.

31: Luckily it was also in a muddy pool, as was all the charcoal.

32: This suggests the water level was ~ 3 feet higher recently, other evidence suggested this also.

33: Human interference need not be evoked in this case.

34: We placed love ones ^{from} ~~the~~ Covadonga.

35: We came up the hill bloody fast as it was dark

36: I felt treachered after releasing with a bear.

21½: Alternatively, taking each single rock on the same slope just below the bushes as a single entity, and then placing a goat on this same slope causes the probability of at least one stone falling to approach unity. *PP*

(28)

Mon 9 Aug: Richard, the train ticket is in the kitty box.

William

10-12 Aug didn't happen at Laps.... Gavin was left guarding Base for 2 nights running, & now is bouncing up & down the hill with the sudden release of energy.

Thursday night 12 Aug: Farewell Party at the Bar Maria Rosa

Friday morning: El Van Rouge + 6 travellers + one set of keys (13 Aug) leave for Arriondas; Paul goes up to Arrio to kick up some enthusiasm there for detaching Xitu & (maybe) Optimista.

8⁰⁰ am, fair weather at Base, fair share of festering tourists walking through the middle of our settlement, fair heap of washing-up awaiting us, & the water container is almost empty though Steve had filled it last night. In other words, Base is in fair shape. Gonna start by having a shave. Gerhard

14 Aug

Thus begins a day of many canes. However nobody apart from Gavin + myself are awake.

It's druggy and everyone was kept awake by a load of Spanish who were partying to melt after 2 in the morning!

Now another lot are playing Abba loudly. God, the Spanish are inconsiderate.

Sunday 15 Aug.

This book just doesn't want to fill...


Jake & I came down from Oriz ~ 20⁴⁵ last night, had some chili & rice & lentil burgers, and CASADIELLES & COLACROCK 43 at the nearly empty bar, in the drizzlin' rain. Just as well so we had a quiet night here despite it's weekend.

Cook's note: Why do lentils take on that revolting grey-green colour...? Like somebody's been sick on the frying pan. The remedy is to ~~get~~ ^{get} the pH into the acid range. A few drops of lemon juice, or vinegar, and the lentils acquire a healthy brown tan (it also taste a lot nicer).

P.S. At the Fuente "Los Ingleses", the KONA have put up a sign (again) loudly saying AGUA NO POTABLE accompanied by a ~~brief~~ ^{brief} lab analysis. Lots of COLIFORMES FECALES. Right then, lets have a well-boiled E. coli stew...

THE PROPHECY

— The following lines are strictly non-fiction.

1994, and another expedition arrives at Los Lagos. The usual well-mixed bunch of novices and old hands. The former press their noses up against the windows to get a view of the magnificent peaks through the gaps in the cloud. Sam drives El Van past Lago Enol and then turns LEFT where the  road sign is pointing.

"Uhm, wait a minute, why are you turning off here?" says William. "Because this is where Base Camp is supposed to be, as of this year." Soon they turn another corner, and ahead lies the new camping

(20) site LOS UEGOS/BUFERRERAS. A neat stone wall around it to keep the cows out (or in - at least one is strolling already past the caravans). No less than three neat brick buildings containing the "facilities". Level ground, were it not for the deep grooves that some campomobiles have already etched into the grass, two months after this site had been inaugurated in the presence of some members of the Royal Family (of Spain).

The path to ~~the~~ Arid, the old legs realize, has grown ~~to~~ a quarter mile longer. No more stamping to the Frente at the side of Ercina in the morning, the water now comes from the tap, and there are mains outlets everywhere, nicely supplemented by the TV aerials atop many a caravan. Sure enough, even without a satellite dish - in fact without a tuner - you can listen to a couple dozen stations simultaneously, just by sitting there. "----", says Graham Naylor, and with this (who else could run it up so nicely?) the old hands walk off in direction Bar Maria Rosa, followed by curious glances from the Freshers.

But what is this? Where's the Bar gone? The place is empty, desolate - only a couple of rusted vending machines tell of its history...

They look around, and discover el' Luis grinning at them from the NEW Bar, at the edge of the camping ground. A sigh of relief - shiny and wholesome (unwholesomely wholesome) is this place looks, they haven't given up the habit of pouring sidra from over their heads, and the floor tiles look no less messy than the old concrete slabs used to. Also, the old putrid smell is still wafting through the air. And the cloud is spilling over from the north, bringing a cold

drizzle. "They can't destroy everything," William mutters under his breath. Three or four choughs rise, shrieking, and fly off into the mist. (31)

It is true, the new generation will never be able to understand fully what their elders are ranting on about, calling it "the squalour and splendour of Lagos in the old days". It's just a campsite like a thousand others in the southern countries of Europe, except for its unusually large share of clouds and precipitation. As they walk up the new wooden "staircase" steps of what William says used to be "God 2", they ponder the craded wandering meanders of the former path, and look back onto the sea of clouds. This at least, they realize, had been like it is now for ages before people from afar arrived to walk up these mountains, and it will stay like this for ages to come.

Kitty's contributions, on the other hand, have gone up quite a bit, and the lad in charge keeps complaining about the administrative hassle of having to sign on and off every person arriving or leaving with the campsite office. And one car ~~was~~ driving up from France arriving at 1^{am} one morning finds the bar down, and no-one to let them in...

Going to take some pics of the site under construction.
You have been warned.

P.S., You can't actually see any Picos peaks whatsoever from the new ground - it's in a big hollow, and the start of the future Ardo path passes through two of the old mine tunnels.

(2)

After this nightmare story, some more "tore-à-tore" remarks as the French would say:

1. This is my second expedition to Lajas with the OUEC, and I still don't have an expedition T/sweat shirt because there weren't any last year, neither this year. I'm very disappointed there about, since by looking around you you will see that they are just a part of the expedition as the lentil burgers or flapjacks or cows/goats/black birds etc etc pp are. So for next year, I'd propose to make one, perhaps with a nice drawing of the ice column in 157, on it for change, always supposing of course the photos we took ^{of it} aren't too bad.
2. Two days before the end of the exp., I'm here at Base camp with a tremendous amount of tinned tomatoes. So for next year's shopping list, I'd propose to buy ~~some~~ one in a while tinned ~~corn~~ ^{sweetcorn} instead of in addition to tinned tomatoes:
 - a) It makes fine salads with rice/pasta/vegetables ...
 - b) It's a good starch supply but changes from pasta (lentils);
 - c) it's as cheap and as easy/difficult to carry up the hill as other stuff in tins is.
3. Though it was probably already said lots of time, I'll repeat it once more (for nostalgia or newcomers, as you prefer): there has to be lots of young ~~men~~ strong men with too much energy here around ^{because some do not} stop carrying things to top camp ^(before it was ~~rather~~ ~~down~~ dismantled) which are completely useless up there. What are you supposed to do with chickpeas up there unless a profession cooker is carried up there? So before going to T.C.,
 - a) revise the (cooking) facilities in your head
 - b) try to find someone who has been to T.C. recently and ask him/her what is needed up thereThis is not too difficult and would make things lots easier and save energy.

STATE OF THE CLUB

4. Don't throw things away carelessly! What happened at T.C. is a broken electric cooker, instead of being taken away (put in the rubbish bin), was just thrown away out of the back of the "kitchen". Someone coming up hill found it and put it in the kitchen. There we found it, put a new cartridge on it since the old one was empty for an obvious reason, and in less than 5 minutes the new one was as empty as the old one without cooking anything. One cartridge carried up and wasted just for nothing!

"Nias für unguat", Ilka.

P.S. A couple of useful things to keep in kitchen tents:

(a) - kitchen rolls. OK so you can use bog-roll as an alternative although it tends to be too soft & tears as soon as it's used. Use to wipe out a pan or a washing-bowl from time to time. Other uses come to mind easily...

(b) - general purpose broth, in cubes (like Boveril) or as powder in a jar. Can be used for most soups & sauces. Can also be used to make a cup or two of hot savoury beverage if you're not feeling attracted to tea or coffee at the minute.

Oh yes, and (c) - we used to have cinnamon (CANELA), to go with moonflakes, flapjack, jam...

15⁵⁰ - Five with poles arrive from Arrio which "doesn't exist any more." Apart from numbers, they look much like the Ghostbusters...

34
end

STATE OF THE CLUB.

- (a) I've got to write down the Oxford Airing Song yet again because nobody can remember where they put the lyrics last time.
- (b) Nobody knows for sure who is the Loris at the moment.

Some debilitating disease has been spreading --- ?