

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 hot/sweet/sour sauce 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. Cumped ~~at~~ Arrundas 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.

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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 disc 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 Culienbro Control.
- 2 Rio Los Texas ~~Detector~~ Control.
- 3 Downstream Culienbro Control. - Broken.
- 4 Hoyo La Madre Control.
- 5 Upstream Culienbro Detector
- 6 La Molinica Detector
- 7 Downstream Culienbro 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 stobbed 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 gassing 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 Clogs

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 = TSCA at Steam Pijpe

22/11 Pozo de Shards

6 m pit to Vacaonow droptis 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 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 + TSH.

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 SIE 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 won't be.

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] [redacted] She doesn't want [redacted] [redacted] in her house, not at all - - -