

1997 TOP CAMP LOG
"EL REGALLÓN"

Log

Black n' Red
Ruled
A4

Gavin	"which knobble?"	have	"The Spelocade"
Keith	"Doolittle"		"Hyams"
Alison	"It's too cold ..."	"Pybus	- "Waterfall"
Farella	"Do we need the Dillo"		"Brown"
Jo	"One step beyond."		"Whistler"
Will	"Indian rope trick"		"Jeremy"
Olly	"Delay tactic"		"Hilton"
Nobby	"The knife"		"Mumford"
(Nick	"Marching orders"		"Burckham")
Andy			"Kwag"
Fleur			"loveridge."
Pete	"Life is cheap"		"Hartley."
Huw			"Jones"
Lou	"The Mad ..."		"Maurice"
Ali			"Stammers"
Rob	"What would you do if I sang out of tune?"		"Garrett"
Rhys			"Williams"
Ben	"Sheath shagger"	AKA - Fucking Artistic Spastic.	"Lovett"
Tim	"Bimbo Mayhem"		"Gulford"
Jonathan	"Angore cackles look at my arse"		Cooper
Ian	XXXXXXXXXX "Jan"		Bensan
'Uncle' Rod			Mumford.
KEV			WELCH
Paul			"Mann"

El Regallón 97 Top Camp Logbook

Monk: 'Where can I enter Zer?'

Master Jersha: 'Can you hear the babbling brook?'

Monk: 'Yes'

Master Jersha: 'Then enter there.'

Welcome to Top Camp ...

- Have fun and be careful
- Always leave a callout - if you must be underground after midnight, leave a morning callout (in the back of the log)
- Don't forget to radio Los Lagos at 9am and 9pm
- If you're here alone, put thumper out for cavers returning in the dark, and cook them a nice meal
- PLEASE write up survey notes on the sheets, & fill in a cover sheet
- Record anything you've done in the log, particularly shaftbashing to avoid duplication of effort.
- Don't shaftbash by yourself
- Fudge is cave food only, so don't be tempted ...
- Collect snow whenever possible - its going to be a dry year.
- Please make a note both here & in the kitty book of anything you buy from expedition, eg batteries or constraints
- If you've time after all the above, go deep ...

'Maximum coherence for Greater Depth'

"Maximum Alcohol for Greater Incoherence."

(2)
7/6/97

C4 Rigging Trip

Keith, ally, Fenella.

Mix up at the start bring ropes, so we only rigged the 1st 3 pitches (inc. entrance ladder). Put hole in right wall at top of 4th but no bolt.

8/6/97 Dear Alan + Fenella Cheers for the write up. It was really useful for planning our trip.

Will Jo + Alison C4. Rigging to end Menster I (in theory)
Gear taken. 90m rope - Maria Rosa. Double Fisherman's Pox pitch
55m rope - Menster I.
20m rope - Insurance
+ rigging gear for above pitches
+ pot of Spits.

8/7/97. C4 Rigging trip. Will Alison Jo.

Rigged to top of Maria Rosa. At top of Maria Rosa, left one tackle bag containing 90m rope for Maria Rosa, Double Fisherman's and Pox pitch. Another tackle bag contains 55m rope for Menster I, and 20m rope for whatever you like. Also, bolt kit with handful of anchors + wedges. ~15 mauls. few wires. 4m tape.

Entrance pitch would benefit from a handline for self lining up. Climb up after Space would also benefit from a handline (10m) - it had one last year. Traverse/Space has a bad rub point and either needs a rope protector or another bolt putting in.

A note on rescue kits

I've repacked the Daren drum marked "Rescue Dump" so it now contains a rescue kit, which can be picked up by the first person down the cave in the event of a rescue. Contents: First aid, brew kit, food, carbide, batteries, bulbs. If we decide we want a rescue dump, we'll have to make up another.

Gavin

Alison on sleeping arrangements

Did you manage to stay on your ... blow-up thing ... or whatever it was?

11/7/97

Dear Olly & Ferella,

Cheers for yesterday's write-up. It was really useful in helping us plan our trip.

Jo

10/7/97

Keith Alison, Jo

This trip was intended to do a few little jobs & for Keith to try out a deeper trip we didn't get as far as we'd wanted to because of a late start & a relatively slow descent, but we did rig a rope for self-lining on the entrance ladder, & a rope on the climb at the bottom of "space-the final frontier". We also took down a tackle bag containing a brew kit, spare food & carbide ~~to~~ as far as the top of Maria Rosa. Pleasant trip, with good time made on the way out. Jo

10/7/97 Cramin, Olly, Forde

Rigged to Mark Brown who we ran out of rope and rigging gear. Had a rub point at rebelay on Monster Port I, put tackle bag under it which needs to be replaced with rope protector.

Really impressed by Monster Port III, convinced I could feel a rub point when I was prussiking back up (probably paranoia, just ignore me).

Cramin suggested splitting pitch with a rebelay to speed things up. Floor at top of Fizzy Willy partially collapsed on way out, making it much easier. Seems to have stabilised. Really fun, friendly cave and my deepest trip ever.

For

A few comments on the rigging:

- 1) The rope on the entrance pitch really should have a second belay if people are going to be abseiling on it
- 2) The exposed scramble down to the head of the second pitch was rigged off a ~~single~~ single, somewhat dodgy natural - now backed up to the rope on the first pitch
- 3) The entrance pitch would be better rigged for SRT - backup, both belays, check deviation from far wall.
- 4) The rope on the second pitch rubs on the roof when you move or across towards the head of the third pitch - could
- 5) be fixed with a deviation
- 5) There was far too much slack in the rebelay at the head of the third pitch - now fixed
- 6) There was also too much slack in several traverse lines; in some cases you'd be half way down the pitch before the rope caught you; in another place, the rope trailed along a loose boulder slope, and risked dislodging

rocks - most of these are now fixed

- 7) The bolt on Fizzy Willy is far too low, making the pitch head much harder (and more dangerous) than it needs to be: belays should normally be high up
- 8) Whoever first rigged the top of The Monster is braver than me - I don't like abseiling on a ~~bolt~~ single bolt in poor rock with a dodgy backup (second bolt now added)
- 9) The first rebelay on The Monster is very poorly placed: the rope rubs a foot below, and the hang is in the water. I think a better hang would be available from a rise of rock a bit further down and to the right.
- 10) The main hang of the Monster would be quicker and easier if it were split in two: it would probably need a bolt rebelay and a bolt deviation on the other wall
- 11) Cruciform Pitch #1 needs another bolt at the top for a K-hang - I put the bolt in, but didn't have a hanger.

The above probably sounds more critical than I meant to be. The club's rigging has improved a lot over the years, but there are still a few places where it could be improved further.

11/7/97

Fenella and Gavin walked up from Base in thick fog. Fine as far as the Martini Pool, but then went astray, couldn't retrace our steps, and were completely lost until we got back to Seal Row. Moral: follow the route very carefully in the fog, and if you stray, retrace your steps while you still can.

11/7/97 to 12/7/97 Will Nobby Jo.

Rigged to bottom of free + easy. Both Free and Easy and Car-0-nine tail need a rope protector - (just below ledge on car-9 tails). Free and Easy needs denotation as per rigging guide - Rope for Hash Brown w a few metres too short. We had hoped to use the 2em rope to rig it, but it was left at the previous rigging limit as we had expected, and there was no route up to terrain where it was. Rope used was that planned for Gooseberry pit. Brien kit and Carbide (large lumps only!) at brien site at bottom of Monster (last year's site)

At top of Free + Easy -

- ~ 10 mainans + hangers.
- 4 Screen gate crabs.
- ~ 8 Clip gate crabs
- Couple of wires.
- Belt kit with ~ 10 wedges and spits.
- Few metres of tape

So - does absence make the heart grow fonder, or would familiarity breed contempt, even after twelve months away? I actually enjoyed this trip more than I expected to, and contempt certainly wasn't the order of the day - below the bottom of the Monster still seems hostile, and - 450 was probably an ambitious target for a first trip this expedition, not helped by cramp at the bottom.

Team muppet rigged down to within one trip of the bottom, though not without some fun - I still can't believe how the top of car 10 nine tails was bolted, as it took a combined effort from Will + me; brown trousers, wobbly legs and all, just to put the top bolt back in.

The lake awaits.

12/7/97

Keith, Nobby, Random spectators

Shaft Bashing - F44

Continued through rift on right - short squeeze led to round shaft easily free climbable 3m down. Lands on another small snow plug - tight vertical squeeze between rock & plug - probably too tight & seemed to end anyway. To left is way under large snow plug. We were standing on before straight on under plug crawl over loose boulders - looked rather dodgy. I didn't seem to go anywhere. To left under plug equally dodgy - less visible so small chance may continue, but unlikely. Hole in the middle (ie: vertical middle) visible from base of shaft. Nice place, very pretty, even if it doesn't go anywhere. May be worth going back & - it might have continued but the combination of loosish rocks beneath & a very large lump of ice above put me off going any further. Enjoyable trip anyway - might not have gone very far, but exploring new zone is so much more exciting than rigging old stuff!

Keith

of what did Jo say:

They'd be more fun if more people sat on them.

12/7/97

Oly, Gavin, Fenella (NOT) C4

Rigged down to top of There be Dragons. Gavin went down in front to re-rig High Brown, leaving me and Fenella to make our way down with most of the gear. Fenella jacked after two pitches, leaving me two tackle bags of gear to take down. Got to the anchor after struggling through the breakthrough rift, and rigged the first part to give a dry haul. Eventually made it down to Gooden Pot and met Gavin. We then rigged High Street and found a dry alternative to The Cheat Neerhammer. The pitch There be Dragons requires extra bolts to give a reasonable take off, so we jacked at that point as we were running out of carbide. More carbide needs to be taken down and left further down the cave.

The trip out was swift and uneventful, and we were out by 9.00 ish. Bargain.

Who said of what to whom ... ?

Who said of whom: "I thought you could just suck it off your socks"

Who said of what: "Maybe he's just got big thighs...."

Who said of what: "I'm not sure screwing it makes any difference..."

"I'm not sure I can be as deranged as you?" - Alison.

"It started out stiff & it ended up all floppy" Alison.

'Ooh! Is that the sun?'

Gavin: 'Well, its definitely got warmer, & here's this bright thing in the sky ...'

13 & 14 / 7 / 97

"Counting Lizards"

I counted 34 of those yellow & black lizards on the way up the Ario Path. When I got to Shepards Hut I discovered the others hadn't waited for me, I thought, "Hummm, I'm fucked, its misty as fuck & I haven't got a clue where I'm going." But in a casseroles of inappropriate optimism, daring bravery, and not being arsed to walk back down to base camp again, I decided to give it a try - I'd probably get there, I sort of knew the way & I'd be bound to be OK. I headed off at the base of sod 4 at 9pm & within 5 minutes I was lost! I wandered around thinking I'd stay awake till 11pm on the off chance that they'd come looking for me - kept myself amused for the 1st hour by inventing new songs about being lost with "Fuck" as every other word. Followed various paths that I came across - but I kept being forced off them by herds of bulls giving me nasty looks. One bull very nearly charged me - I took to carrying a rock with me for the rest of the night! By midnight I was pretty knackered & I realized I was totally & utterly lost so I found a hole, put the rope I was carrying on

The ground he tried to go to sleep inside my rucksack (cos I only had shorts on & no survival bag). Didn't but my leg - I felt something warm crawling up my leg & suddenly my breathing slowed & I felt faint - I jumped out of my rucksack & looked inside - didn't see much except a snail though! Thought I'd have another look around so I walked to the top of the hill, but no luck. Walked back down to my 'bed' but surprise surprise, it had gone. Bollocks. That was when I started to get pissed off.

I walked up & down the hill again in 50 direction but I couldn't find the rope. In the end I tried to sleep on a rocky thing so I didn't use up all my torch batteries. Slept on my rucksack this time so I was pretty cold in just shorts & fleece. - woke up after 1/2 hour shivering so I thought fuck this & wandered around some more. Bumped into another path so I followed it for a bit. & then I saw it, that wonderful, beautiful, splodge of yellow paint! I beat down & kissed the bloody thing then I set off on the Aris path, arriving in Base Camp moments before my spare torch batteries packed up on me at 6:30 am.

Morals of the story:

- 1) Always carry your survival bag with you!
- 2) On a misty evening, it's worth waiting that extra 5 minutes for the last person in the group as it might save them having to spend the ~~last~~ night freezing their bollocks off on the mountain.
- 3) Don't count lizards on the way up the Aris path, it's bad luck.

more like 4 hours.

Keith