

(115)
The Exciting Find.

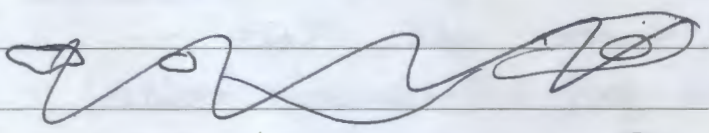
We met just before the summit on the ridge where 3 rocky knolls
surround a depression with many (at least 8) shafts. This
lies roughly halfway between La Vedvallaenge and Coviale, though
on a direct line between the two, though neither are
visible. The shafts lie just below the summit of what is
probably marked EV. 1938 on the Adirondack map.

The first shaft, 25/9A was a large open shaft with a 30
(at least) drop to snow. Our rope was only 40m so we left this.
Down slope was 25/9B, an obvious continuation of the 25/9A rift fault.
This was rigged but a 10m pitch landed on a boulder checked floor
with a small patch of snow. 25/9C was then investigated
which consisted of 2 shafts separated by a rock bridge
accessible by a 32d the hole from a 3rd depression. No way
on beyond snow.

Finally 25/9D was 2d rigged. This was a 10m open shaft
with a snow plug, with access via a higher depression. Above
the snow plug 10-15m of rift/crack ended in a small
chamber with sky light. Below the snow a gap between rocks
gave way to a 20-30m pitch. Rocks easily fall down this
pitch and proper carig gear would be sensible for descent. We
left the rope rigged down the snow-slope and belayed above
the pitch, 25/9E = 5d

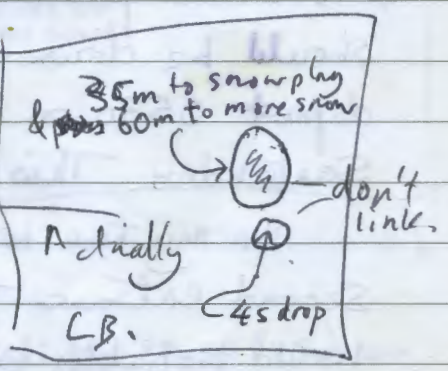
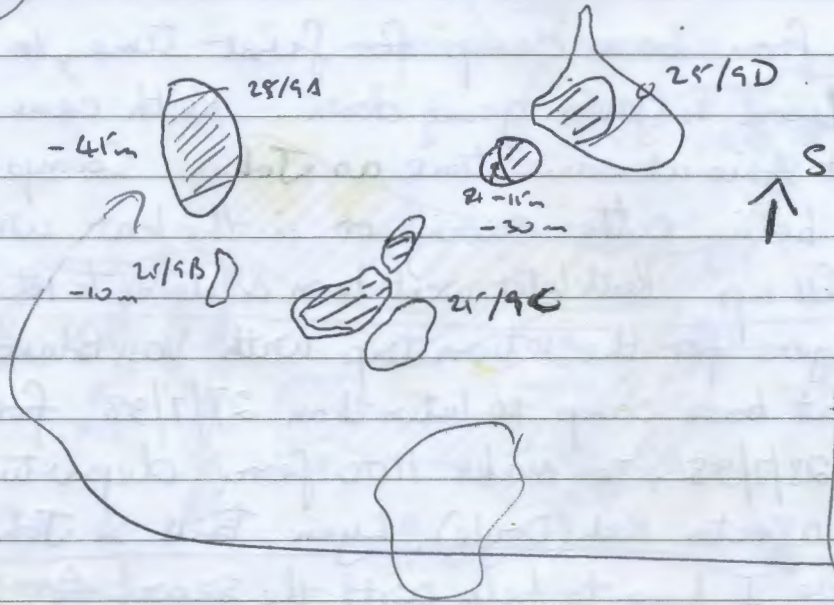
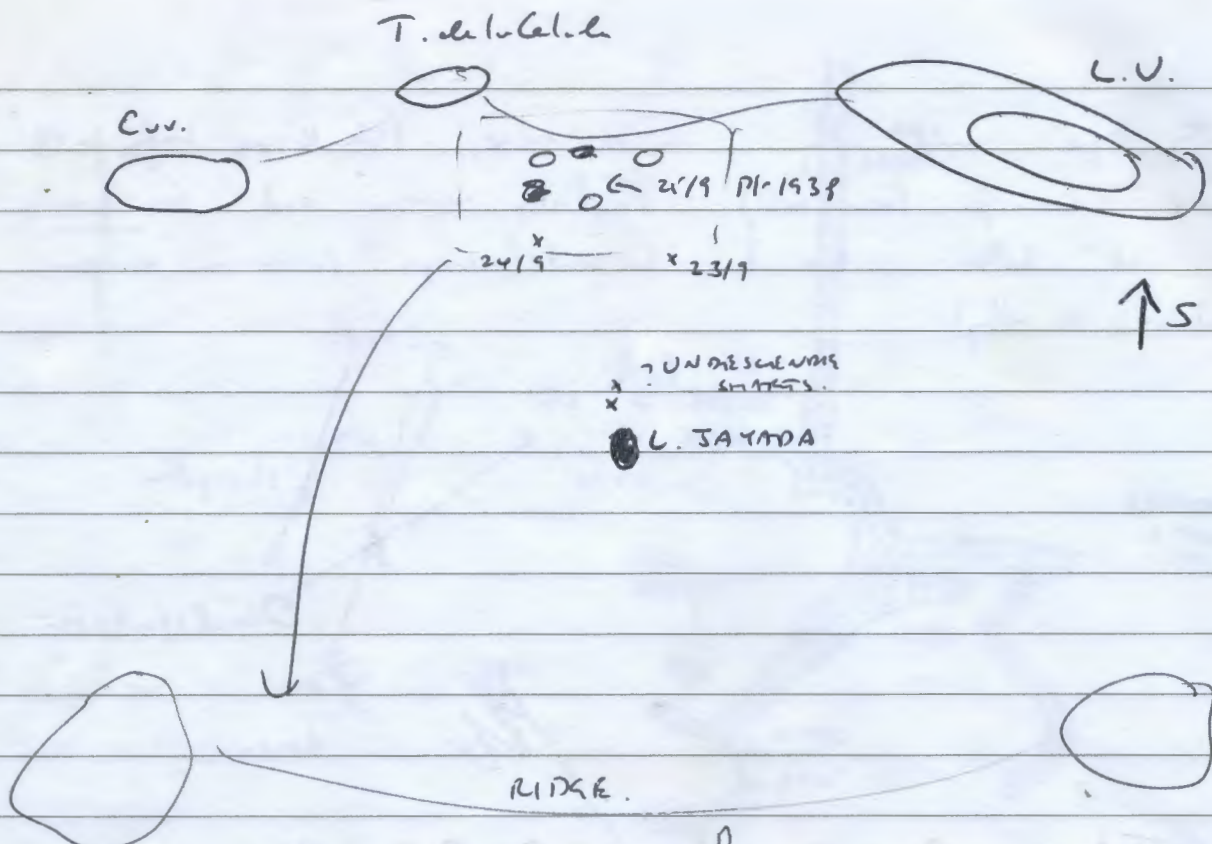
Only 25/9B was rigged, though tags have been made for
25/9A + 9D. A bolt kit would be useful for both in descent
pitches.

A final shaft 25/9E was added ^{to} the west of these
shafts.



SL.

NB See 16/9. Probably Same Caves.

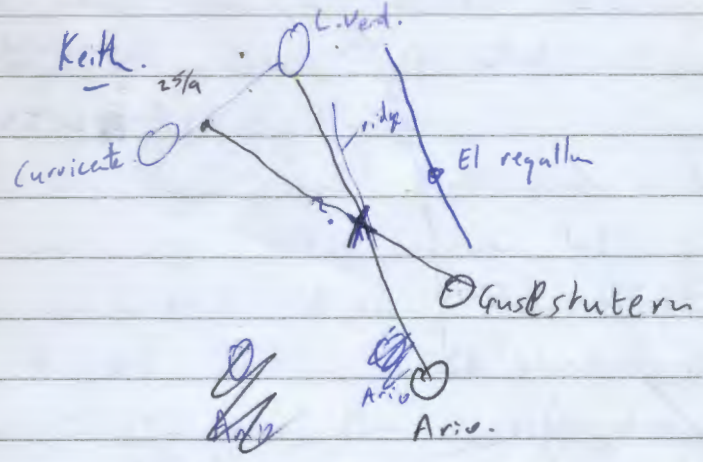


2 Unmarked Entrances

On the way back to the Arco path (base road 4) from 25/9 I found a couple of unmarked entrances - not huge holes but they seemed to continue (unentered). Unfortunately the location description I'm about to give is so poor that I doubt anyone will be able to find them again. They are on the Eastern side (hardly high up) of the ridge which forms the Eastern side of the ~~vega~~ vega which has El Regallón on its Western side. In a rocky area (ie: not grassy) at the bottom

(B)

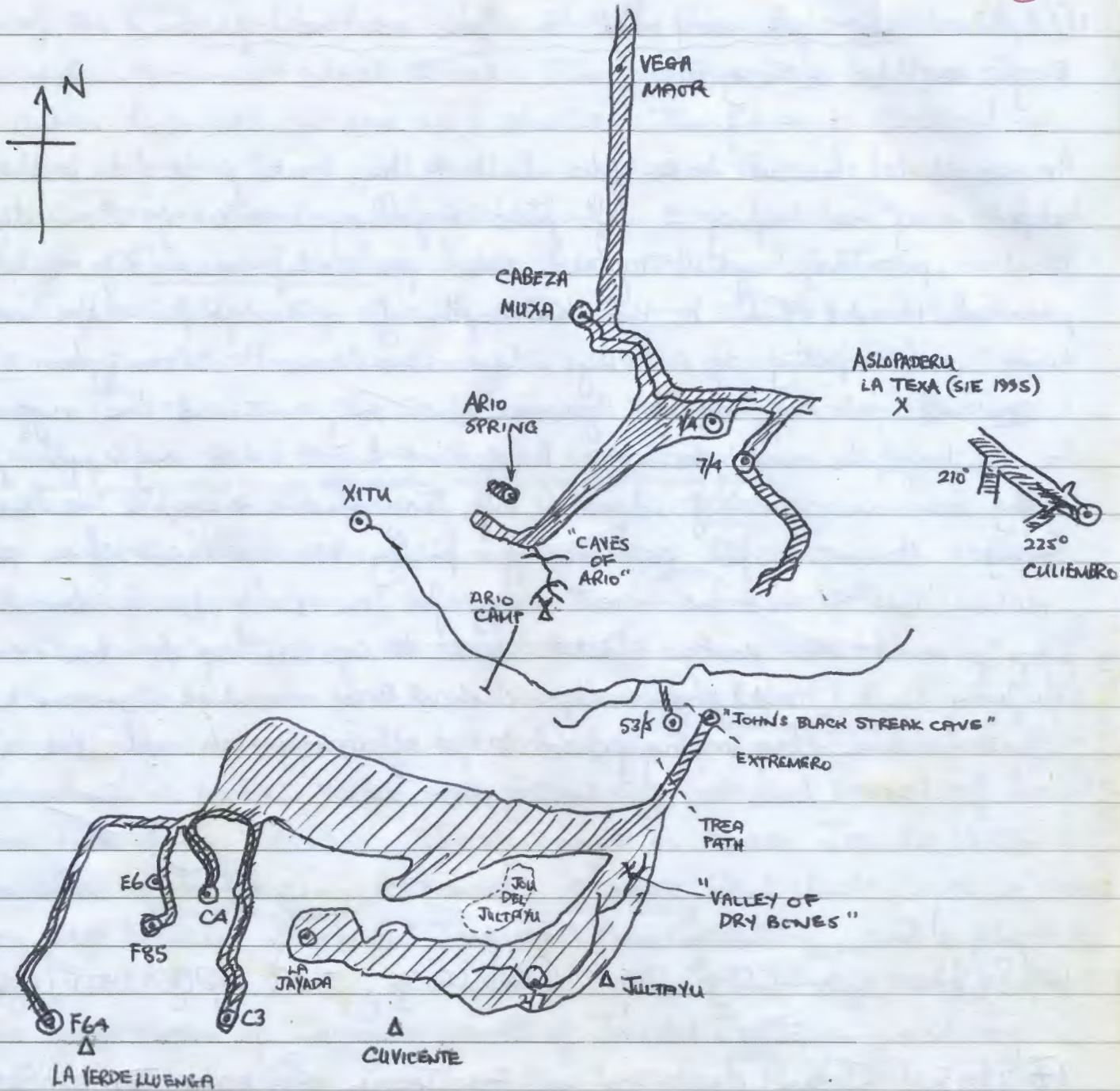
of a ritty type small valley in the ridge (like the one leading to the top camp snow plug (nearest one)) its fairly narrow and lies directly along the line between Arrio & La Verdellana (which can be seen at either end of the valley)



16/7/98 John up from base camp for first time, in morning, meeting Fleur, Allison & Gavin going down. Keith came up later & arrived at Arrio at same time as John. Camp was deserted, the rest being either caving, or in the bar waiting for the water to fill up. Keith later went down & intends to return this evening. (Lev please note)

* Note that passengers for the return trip with Van Blanc Travel should be down at base camp no later than 27/7/98, for strict depart 0530 on 28/7/98, to make 1100 ferry departure at Santander. This affects Rich (Doyle), Lynn, Bill & John (driver).

In my time here I hope to help with the search for a second entrance to 2/7. The digs in the "Valley of Dry Bones" would probably enter Postman Pat & be no help in by-passing Choke Egbert. 53/5 has had a lot of attention but has got nowhere despite its very strong draught - it is probably heading for Xitu anyway. Over the other side of Extremero "John's black streak cave" appears to be choked with boulders. Perhaps. the best areas to look are just at the end of Extremero where the drop to the gorge begins, and downstream of the C3/C4/F64 Sumps - I have predicted by dowsing that this cave continues and has the potential to bypass Choke Egbert (see map).



Dowsing reactions obtained over many years (chiefly 89, 92, 95) are shown hatched, and known caves are shown as solid lines. The extremely strong reaction for Xitu, which masks everything else, is not shown above, to prevent undue cluttering. If 2/7 does not drop into Xitu, it may continue under Extremero (but above Xitu) and a corresponding reaction has been found leading to the vicinity of 7/4. This is also predicted to join the waters from Vega Maor, Cabeza Muxa and the "Ario Caves", heading towards Culiebro. Note the position of Aslopaderu La Texa (SIE 1995) also.

I hope you like this bullshit, John

(15)

15/7/98 Jo gets very tired & swears at the rifts
Rhys, Lev, Jo & Tony

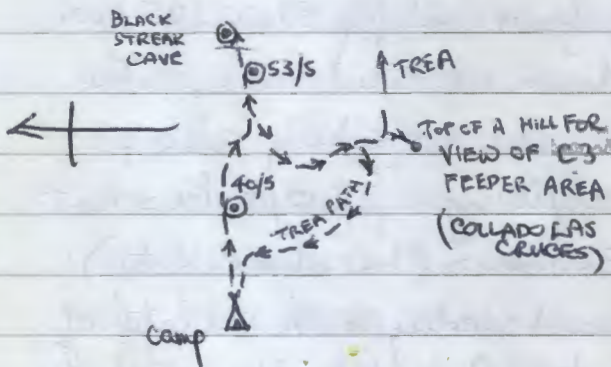
An accidental lie in made the walk to the cave a bit of a bastard, not helped ~~by~~ me having 2 left feet & falling over every 2 minutes. Went up to the eyehole to take some piccies & found a dig site with the potential to add 30m to the ~~the~~ depth of 2/7. Rifts on the way down were pretty OK. Rhys & Lev went down to Armaggon while I shivered at the top of Pessimists pt. Tony continued the rigging to Cemetery Gates and ~~the~~ us 3 headed out. I lost my temper pretty badly at one part of Paradise Rift, and had a 'mare at Paradise Squeeze. However, I felt OK when I finally reached the surface, only to realise that I had no more energy for the walk back. Lev & Rhys persuaded me that I didn't want to go to sleep ~~on~~ the mountain halfway back, and I eventually reached Arico, somewhat incoherent. Great cave - I'm looking forward to a return match with the rifts.

Jo

16/7/98 "Carry on Caving" - A good trip!

17/7/98 John dowsing in Extremes & near Trea Path

Route:



This was an afternoon of mixed results: on the one hand nothing was learnt that was not already known; on the other hand I gained a much better appreciation of the area we have to cover for looking for a second entrance downstream of

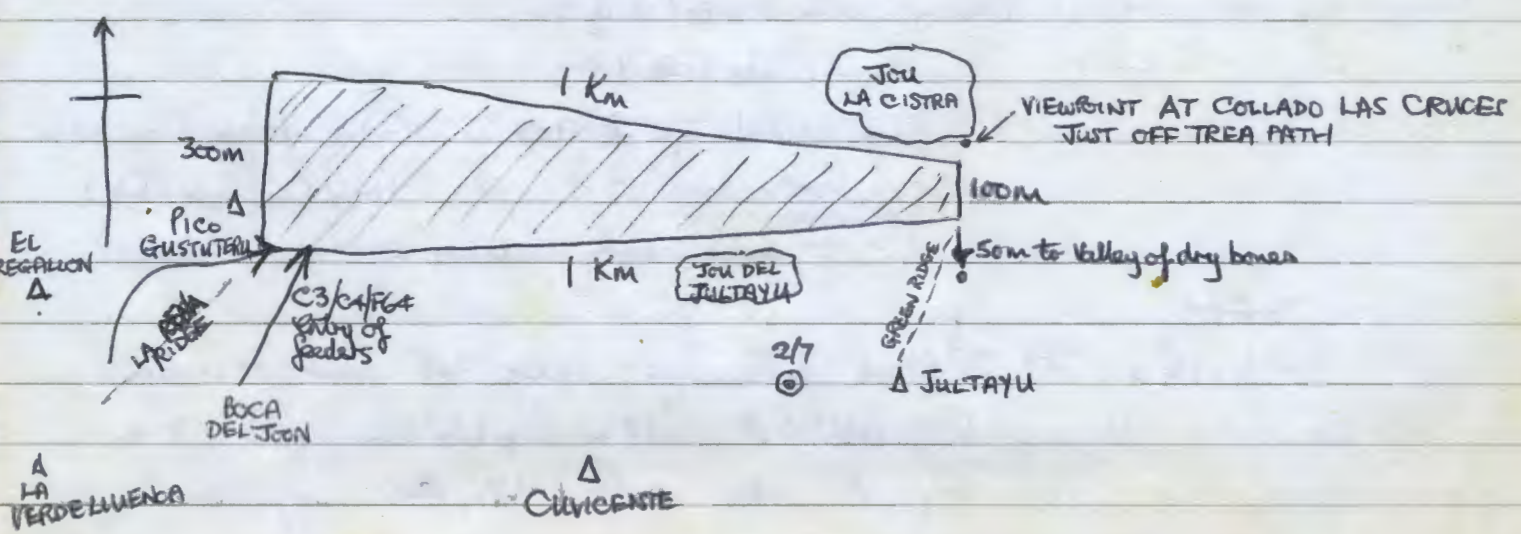
C3 which has the potential to by-pass Choke/Egbert, Black Streak Cave This is right over the reaction for downstream 2/7. It is low in Valle Extremero on its northern side, at the

base of the Cabeza Llambría cliffs, directly below the large dolomite boss and a prominent black streak. The pastores have built a stone wall across its mouth, for use as a shelter. The floor is covered in boulders, obviously block fall from the roof, and there is no obvious way on. There must have been solution, however, for the cave to form. The cliffs of Cabeza Llambría have many solutional features, some of which give the impression of cave entrances - all are blind however. 53/5 maintains its dramatic draught - it was fairly whistling out today. This cave is on the south side of Valle Extremero further up the valley from Black Streak cave, and is separated from it by a transverse ridge ^{A small spring emerges from a rift nearby, and there is a stagnant pool.} in the floor of the valley. 40/5, again used by sheep is on the ~~same~~ ^{west} side of the upper valley. It contains a network of phreatic passages. None of these seem to have further potential.

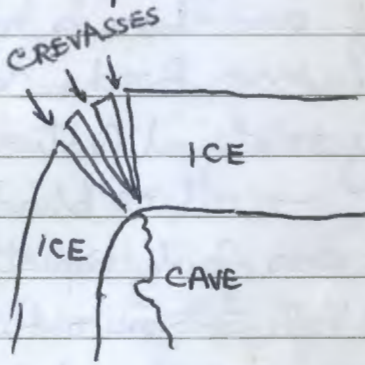
The best place to view the suggested shaft-bashing area below C3 on its way to Culienbro (which will by-pass Choke Egbert) is the top of a hill above a right-angle left turn of the Trea path ^{at Collado Las Cruces} just before it descends to a narrow valley with yellow sign-post and branch of the minor path down Extremero. The view point is above Jou La Cestra.

The area is ^{trapezium} shaped, running almost West-East, with a 300m W long edge between ^{a point 700m north of} Boca del Joon and ^{200m north of} Pico Gustutera, and a short E 100m edge ^{50m} north of the "Valley of Dry Bones". The S long edge runs along the lower slopes of Cuvicente, north of Jou del Jultayu, and the N long edge runs from ^{200m north of} Pico Gustutera to a point ^{150m} N of "Valley of Dry Bones", and S of Jou La Cestra. We are not interested in Jou La Cestra since this concerns Xitu and its tributaries.

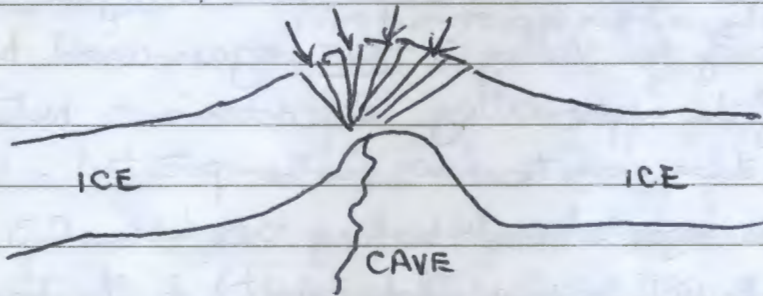
Dumper "315 mill" on left.



Why are the caves in such crazy positions, at the tops of mountains, edges of gorges, etc. We must remember that they were formed in the glacial period, under ice, when the land surface was up to 300m higher.



Ice flowing down into a gorge will have crevasses down which water flows, and thus the cave is on the edge of the gorge.



Caves will similarly be formed where the ice rides over a hill or ridge.

John

17/7/98

Shaffbushy - Area 9

Keith & Pete

① 26/a a, b & c

3 holes at the bottom of the southwesterly (northwesterly) slope of Gurtterera, 1/2 hour from Ario.

Bearings from 26/a a:

Curvicente $\approx 162^\circ$

La Verdellangua 290° (not visible from above - being from just above)

He corners.

Located in \wedge 2 small rocky depressions

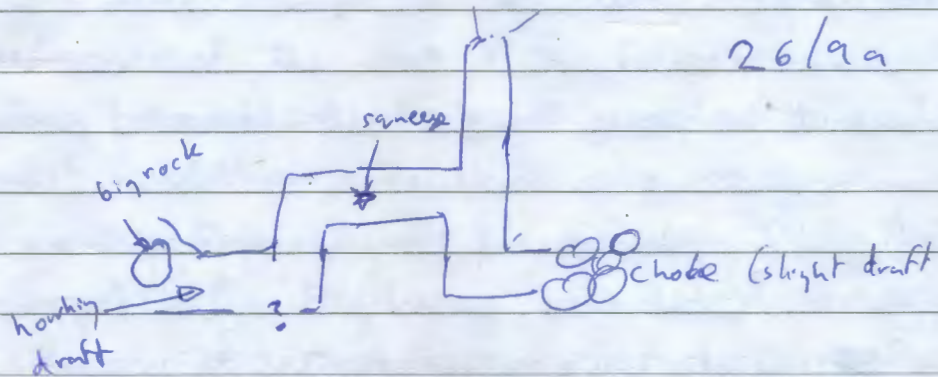
26/a

26/a a

start

- \wedge climb down in corner of higher depression to head of 10m pitch in rift. One way at bottom too tight, other way chokes, but

Doesn't can see through & way through may be possible for small determined suicidal cones, but probably not. Slightly drafty. More promising lead is through squeeze ('fun' with gear on - I got pretty stuck!) 1/2 way down the rift. This leads to a second way down the rift which looks ~~very~~ promising - it has a HOWLING DRAFT. This bit wasn't descended (possibly free climbable), but a large boulder was visible on the far side, possibly with a way past. Definitely worth returning to.
 Best rigged.



26/a b - Hole in opposite corner of depression to 26/a b (possibly same rift) seems choked but not looked at properly.

26/a c - Hole in corner of another very near depression (same rift line). Tight squeeze entrance - unentered. seems to choke but possibly not.

○ 25/a a ("Bridge Pot")

We went to check out the final shaft that Lev had identified yesterday. It lands on the same snow plug as the other shaft - both entrances are

(H)

obviously visible from the bottom. The bridge that isn't
a bridge is a bridge - Bummer.

Keith.

Bill :- What do you call those squidgy things? Your ~~intestines~~ intestines

Bill : There's only one use for a condom - you put it over your head +
blow it up.

Rhys look at the stars. They're all blurred

Rhys (to Bill) - I'll take you, if I'm not going caving the next day

Paul :- ~~Stab~~ Stab, suck + spit it out.

Bill :- I'm touched

Jo - I'm sorry about that, I don't know what came over me.

Bill "Us one of Satan's Drivers isn't it?"

17th July - Riggings to Big Ledge - Garin & Fleur

An efficient trip left camp at 8am (!) and sailed through the rifts to the obligatory pile of tackle bags at the top of Persimists. Taking a couple of bags each we continued down the shafts. Still very impressive, but not as impressive as what was to come. Garin collected another bag in the Crevels: "I might go a bit slowly now as I've got three tacklebags", he still went twice as quickly as me.

You can here Just Awesome long before you see it. In the small chamber at the end of the Crevels Garin recounted having discovered it and jumping up and down with joy, whilst William muttered 'I say' and comments about the stability of the floor.

Then Garin rigged to the big ledge, whilst I struggled on behind with 3 bags of camping gear. Got myself in a terrible knot at the pitch head, and on the traverse, and the next take off, and the rebelay. I was a mobile tacklebag tuckle.

The main free hang is incredible. If you know where to look you can just make out the waterfall, Garin pointed it out, but I needed my Halogen to see it. This place is HUGE!

Just time for a brew before heading back out. Met JC and Tony at the top of B. Just Awesome I bought JC my balaclava, almost resulting in tragedy as I then drop my bandana. Thankfully it did not go down. JA and was retrievable. Abuse was then exchanged, before heading out to a beautiful sunset. Excellent, I do like this cave. PAL.