

(21)

REQUEST

When people take ^{pigs of} carbide into the cave can't be broken up first, please. Some of the lumps down there now are quite large, which is a problem, especially if you have a smaller Malham generator.

Thank you.

18/7/98 A little homily on the subject of water supply and camp hygiene:

Martin's kidney/waterworks problems lead me to believe that he had been drinking too much untreated water - his last words to me were "one reason for going down is to get a decent drink at Bobias spring" (which is safe).

We have improved the water supply at Aris camp in two respects: 1. Use of the second spring first found by dowsing in 1992, when it was in fact dry. This spring is much nearer to the camp, and also this year has a delivery rate twice that of Aris Spring. The original spring has been blocked with stones and a hosepipe leads to a cattle trough. We ought not to leave the water containers there all the time, however, since then the cow trough dries up, and it is in our interests to have the cows drinking lower down than us. Water containers should be wedged with stones to stop the cows knocking them over. Any containers mixed with cow shit must be washed off, and the water in the container then discarded. It is the job of the water-carrier to add a water purifying tablet to the container immediately on return: $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Micropur tablet per 25l container. This is a non-chlorine purifier which takes 2 hours.

2: Fetching snow from the Aris Cave in the centre of the depression. You will see some wires/loops, and also a shovel for the snow. Put it in a tackle bag and then dump it in the large white drum for melting. This (in addition to being our wine cooler) is to be used exclusively for washing up: add one Milton

tablet to a pan of water before boiling it.

Water for water bottles should be taken at least two hours after sterilising the water — if you really want to be sure the water should ideally be boiled, or you can use one Puritab per litre, but some people don't like the chlorine taste!

For most of your water intake (at least 3l per day) you can use boiled water in tea/coffee, soup, cooking, etc. Cold water must be sterilised, e.g. for fruit drinks, with Mornflakes, etc. I actually use the boiled water for the tea on my Mornflakes.

Be frequent with your personal hygiene as well. All cooks and washers-up must wash their hands in disinfectant before beginning their tasks (even if you're just casually making flapjack, or cooking yourself an egg).

Of course you should also wash your hands in disinfectant after a trip to 15/5.

John

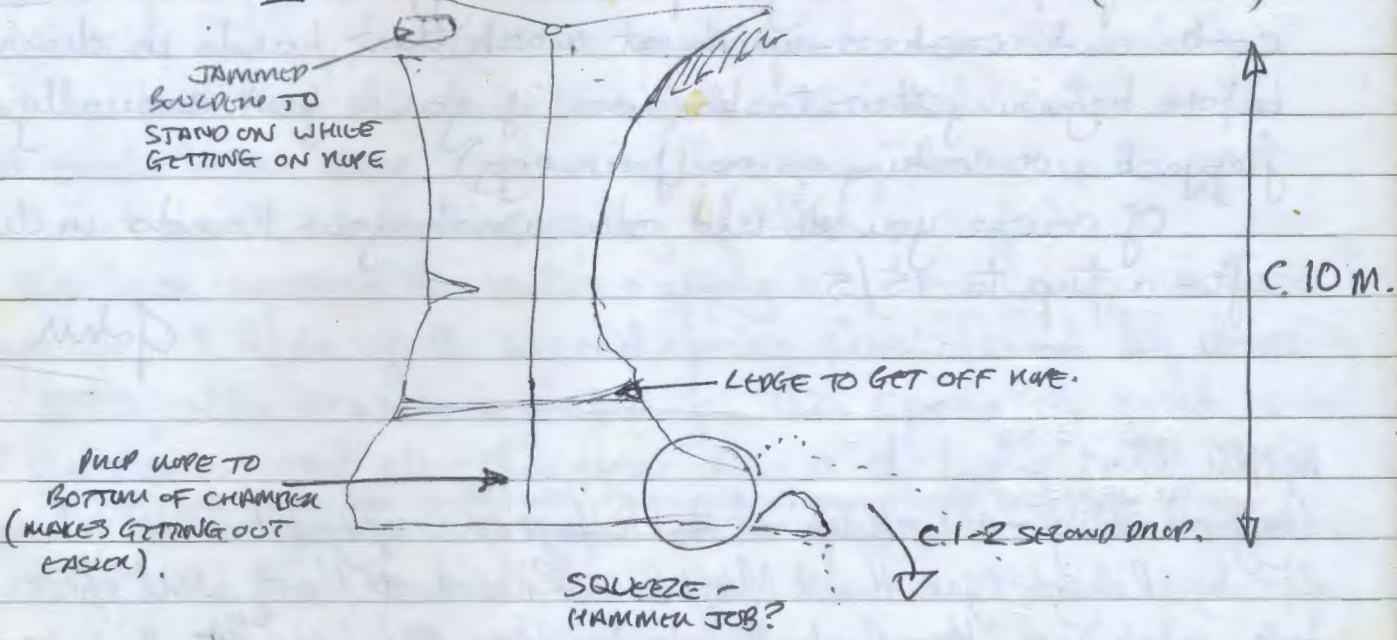
16/7/98

Carry on caring — a write up. 4 tackle bags of camping kit were taken up to 2/F by Richard, Lynn, Huw & Martih S. Richard & Martih went first & took a bag each through to the top of Flying Re-belay. ^{They} We then went back & helped with the other 2 bags. At the bottom of the ladder Lynn decided that she'd head out & Huw went with her. By all accounts they had a good walk up to the top of Jultayn via the witches eye. Richard & Martih decided to "Carry on" into the cave with the 4 bags as originally planned i.e. to the top of Pessimists. ~~We~~ They quickly fell into a routine of Richard going ahead & Martih passing the bags, (ad almost infinitum!). This was thought by Martih to be very efficient & certainly less tiring than trying to stumble along with 2 bags each. At the large climb down we had to link them all together so as not to drop them, Martih was heard to utter "what a carry on" & the trip received it's title. We eventually got there & headed out in time to walk back to trio in the daylight, a large bonus, especially with the lovely sunset & Caves Gorge filled with pure white fluffy clouds. Richard nearly cracked his

head open if a fall but said it was all completely controlled - tell that to my adrenal gland. I highly recommend the "passing bags forward in a cascade style" method, it saves not just energy but probably wear & bashing the bags too. Martin S.

18/7/98. SHAFT-BASHING : LYNN, JOHN & BILL @

SET OFF WITH A VIEW TO FINDING & INVESTIGATING KETH'S CAVE; DAMMED IF WE COULD FIND IT (THE COMPASS BEARINGS SEEM TO BE PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE!)! AFTER MUCH UP HILL AND DOWN DALE (~~EXERCISE~~) WE EVENTUALLY FOUND A CAVE: A SINGLE SPIKEY PROJ IN A RIFT (C. 10m).



THE PITCH MAY BE FREE-CLIMBABLE, BUT I WICKON TO DO SO WOULD BE DUMBS! THE SQUEEZE NEEDS EITHER A SMALL PERSON OR A HAMMER. THERE APPEARS TO BE A DROP BEYOND THE SQUEEZE. WHOEVER GOES NEXT SHOULD PROBABLY BOLT THE PITCH AS MY HUGGING (LEFT IN SITU) IS DOGGY IN EXTREMIS (IT HELD THOUGH!)!

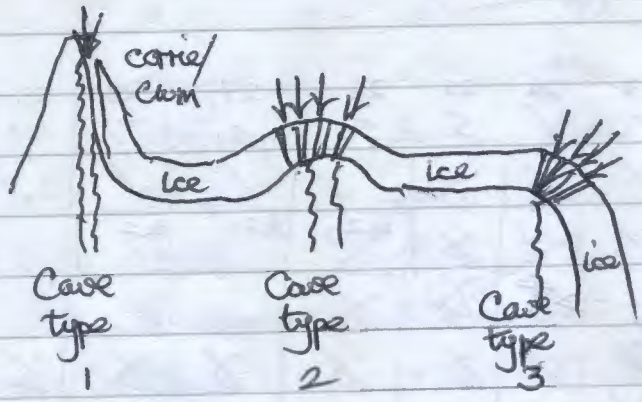
HOW TO FIND THE BUGGER:

IT'S ON THE S. SLOPES OF PICO GUSTUTULO (WITH A CAVERN A FEW M. AWAY -> AVICLO)

- MAGNETIC BEARINGS: CABEZALLAMBRIA 065°
 - JULTAYU: 118°
 - CURVICENTE: 56°
 - LA VOLD: 218°
- } TO BASE OF SHORT CLIMB STRAIGHT UP TO CAVE,

ON THE WAY UP THE VALLEY, JUST ~~BEFORE~~ AFTER THE CLIMB THERE'S A DAMN GREAT BOULDER; PASS THIS AND YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!

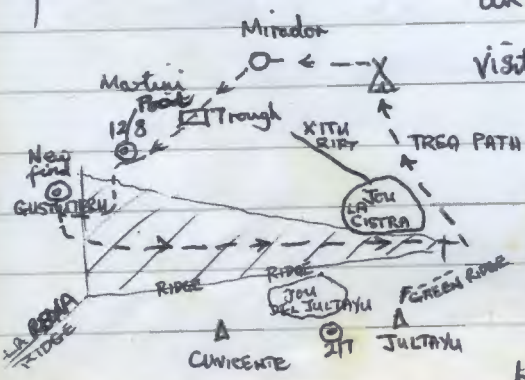
18/7/98 Part 2 of my lecture on Alpine Karst:



The glacier starts as a snow field in a Corrie or Cwm. Water runs down between the near-vertical wall of the Corrie ^{& the ice} to form Caves of type 1: examples are 2/7, F64, F20 and C3. Caves of type 2 are formed via crevasses where the ice rides over a ridge. In our case caves of this type may be found below Jultayu after passing the ridge north of Jou del Jultayu (i.e. on the south side of John's trapezium), ^{on the little ridge below Cuvicente ditto} or around Ico Gustulere for example. Caves of type 3 will occur at the edge of the Caves Gorge. I have already visited the end of Valle Extremos. The cave reaction for 2/7 is strong there but nothing is visible because of scree & boulders. A similar cave/caves may exist down the Canal del Trea. Caves may be found on near-vertical cliffs which will need ropes for access.

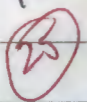
John

18/7/98 Shaft bashing route Bill, Lynn & John. The easy way in was taken (only 1/2 hour) via Lagos path, striking SW from the Mirador on a set of path then up a valley with cattle trough towards the NE flank of Pico Gustulere. In an abortive attempt to follow Keith's instructions, 12/8 was



visited. It is described as 10m to snow plug, 3m climb up as well to reach crant blocked by a single boulder - this may go further? Passing through the NW corner of John's Trapezium we located the new find previously described by Bill (see left). Is this the same as Keith's find? The bearings are not the same, and 290° to La Verdelluenga seems impossible! Is this the same as 1/9? In my view it has potential anyway - temporary rigging left there, but will need both for more permanent exploration. After this

John gave Bill & Lynn a familiarisation trip through his "Trapezuin", and the return to camp was made through the "centre line" by an easy path in the valley / possible location of new cave, then via the Trea path back to camp. John



2/7 Trip & portering plan

	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	Tu	We	Th
Paul M *	3	2	2	2	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lev	2	2	2	2	X	X	X	BL2	BL2	BL2		
Gavin *	0	3 3A	3A	4	4	3	8	X				
Martin *	0	3	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Richard	DP2	3 3	3	3	3	X			BASE	FERRY	X	X
Fleur	DP3	PA	4	4	4	4						
Rhys	0	PA	X	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	X	X	X	X
Hugh	X	PA	X	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	X			
Debe *	DP2	PA	X	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	X			
Alice	X	PA	X	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	X			
Keith	DP2	X	PS	X	X	X						
Alison	DP2	X	PS	X	X	X	?	BL2	BL2	BL2	X	X
Jo	DP3	X	PS	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓			
B.11	DP3	X	X	X	BL1	LDG6	BL1	X	BASE	FERRY	X	X
Lynn	DP3	X	X	X	BL1	LDG6	BL1	X	BASE	FERRY	X	X
John (Irish)	X	X	PS	X	X	X						
Tony	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓			

2/7 Schedule of personnel

Primo	In	Out	Parbers	Wlen
Trip 1	J.C.	Fri	Mon	
	Tony	Fri	Mon	
Trip 2	PMM	Sun	Wed	
	Lev	Sun	Wed	
Trip 3	Martin	Mon	Thur	
	Richard	Mon	Thur	
Trip 4	Gavin	Tue	Fri	
	Fleur	Tue	Fri	
Trip 5	RLys	Wed	Sat	
	Alex	Wed	Sat	
Trip 6	Pete Rich	Thur	Sun	
	Hugo	Thur	Sun	
Trip 7	Tony	Fri?	Mon?	
	Jo	Fri?	Mon?	
Trip 8	? (by Keibl)	Sat	Tue	
	Keibl?			
Trip 9	Paul	Sun	Wed	
	? John (Trish)			

Trip 5	Hew	Wed → Sat
	Rich	Wed → Sat
Trip 6	Rhys	Thurs → Sun
	Alee	Thurs → Sun

Big ledge

BL Trip 1	Bill	? Thur - Sat
	Lynn	? Thur - Sat
BL Trip 2?	Lev	? Sun - Tue
	Alison	? Sun - Tue

(27)

Fri 17/7/98

Shaft Bashing in the Shaft Series 2/7
Huw, Rhys, Alec, Lev.

The rigging guide mentions a couple of leads near Sing to the Devil. Tony said they would be worth a look as they had probably been forgotten about in people's rush for the depths. First we looked at the large hole that is traversed around at the base of the pit. This slopes back into the main shaft. I ended up ~~about~~ almost being able to touch the rope hanging down. The Bells.

Then Alec looked at the parallel shaft to Sing to the Devil. This joins back in to Time to head out.

A fun and efficient, if unsuccessful, trip.

Huw

18/7/98

Portering in 2/7

Keth, Alison, ~~Rich~~ Rich, Pete

After a hot walk up in the midday sun & a peer through the witch's eye, we headed down 2/7 for myself & Pete's 1st trip down the cave, carrying 2 tacklebags of rope & 2 of camping gear. Got through the squeezes O.K. on the way down (squeezes? what squeezes?) although the ^{top of the} ~~top of the~~ bit proved a bit more fun! Lots of swearing at tackle sacks on the traverses, & an almighty thud as Richard fell off one, nearly pulling Alison down too who was clipped to the same traverse line. My new Pisma decided to be a complete arsefuck as well, unscrewing itself with every 2 steps I took & as a result throwing itself down the final pitch/diub in the rifts. And then there was the bit where I thought that Alison had gone "downwards" in the rift so I followed as the rift got wider & wider, turning into a pitch (without a rope) - "Am I really supposed to free climb this?" I thought, "Oh well, no-one ever said 2/7 would be easy (or safe!)" Fortunately Richard pointed out the right way to me before I plummeted.

down!

Pumped the tackle sacks at the top of Dessemists he headed out. The rifts seemed 4 times as short on the way out & before I knew it we were at the foot of Seventh Heaven. Managed to get stuck in the Seventh Heaven Squeeze for quite a while with my gear on. Discovered, after 2 years of caving, the joys of being able to prussick properly - in all this time I'd always had my harness leg loops too tight so that they forced my legs out rather than letting them go downwards - hell of a lot easier now!

Out around midnight - not the fastest trip ever but it could have been worse, certainly a tough cave (think without the shaft series!), but a nice one overall & hopefully it should get easier with practise!

Followed the "levitating Thumper" back to Aris.

Keith

19/7/98 An Administrative Note about water supply.

Last night we had a visit from the "pastor of the goats" who was irate about our using the second spring, and he said it was "only for the animals". Certainly the animals have very little water, and it is best that we do not use the second spring any more.

Aris spring is running slower & slower, but we will continue to use it (several hours to fill a container, and there are hazards of Spaniards using it to fill their bottles, and cows knocking it over/mixing it with shit).

The snow plug in the centre of the Aris basin will continue to be of use until it is all gone. We have been experimenting with filtering this water before sterilising it, and it may prove our mainstay - this should be no new experience since the old top camp & the snow pole camp used snow exclusively.

We have begun to use the supply at the trough called "Martini

24.
Pool"

~~Pool~~. This is 15 minutes away, and the container currently takes 1 hour to fill, total 1hr 30 min/trip. Take the Lagos path to the Mirador, then strike SW on a fair path to the visible valley on the NE flank of Pico Gustatere. There is a trough at the spring. It might be as well to "sign out" for these trips. John

P.S. Aris Spring is only delivering 5l/h today, with much hassle from Spaniards, horses, cows, etc.

Suggestion for dump (at camp?):

(Given that some of the new fismas are dodgy & Paul & Keith have already dropped theirs down pitches already):

- Spare generator (or at least the bottom bit).
- Spare electric lamp batteries.

Gravin - "Dave should be coming out soon, I assume school terms have finished by now"

Richard - "Why, is he still at school?"

Returning covers:

Soup and stew to eat.
Some pasta already cooked.

Thank You!!

PORTERING

- 2 tackle bags of pits at Bottom of Graham's Todgeg ^(Tighean rita)
- 2 tackle bags of rope near end of rifts.

Sorry didn't go any further - cracked covers and lack of time.

20/7/98 Martin has been to hospital, and an X-ray has revealed a kidney stone (Peter took him to hospital in Arriondas). He has a supply of pain-killers and he is driving himself back to Britain! This means that Trip 3 is cancelled. Richard will team up with Huw for Trip 5 (in W 22, out Sat. 25, beway Sun. 26, base Mon. 27 for ferry T. 28, leaving 0530 with John, Bill & Lynn). Peter, Huw's original partner, does not mind taking a later slot.

The Aris Spring is now almost useless. The refugio wooden has noted that we have taken some snow, and says he does not mind us taking a little, but he uses it for cooling his drinks, and if we take a lot it will not last till August. He admits that water supply is a problem, and has protested to the park authorities that the land is over-grazed. He himself drinks none of the water up here, and relies on bottled beer and water! Our best plan is to rely on the Martini Pool Spring from now on.

John