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so we spent as long as possible discussing the difficulties with even in the hope that we would have more success.

Friday - A fantastically early start for us meant we left camp at 12.30pm armed with ^{the} route description and Lynn and Lewis advice (as well as rope and descending drums full of Buffalo Jackets + binoculars!)

The route finding went surprisingly well and the coming was fun and spectacular although as expected I felt uneasy about the water. Echo beach was wonderful and ~~us~~ thanks to Lynn + Lewis advice we found the way to the Dead Sea with no problems.

The streamway beyond Oregon pitch really intimidated me and it was with great relief that we left it at Carl corner.

Turn ~~over~~ Tim easily climbed the pitch and put the 30metre rope on for me. At the top the passage was beautifully decorated with popcorn and unusually for the pitch - stalagmites. We rigged the short pitch down and Tim let me go first.

This was the first time I had been ~~the~~ the first down a pitch and landing on the proboscis mud was amazing. I walked ~~around~~ ^{around} into tall, wide, decorated rifts, passing a crack on the right. Tim followed and we explored + surveyed 120 metres of passage. A stream rift ~~led~~ led back to the main passage with pneumatic tubes above. A side passage led back to the ground at the base of the pitch.

The large rift passage ended in an over with a waterfall. After surveying Tim attempted to climb it. There was no protection and my belaying was pointless which soon became a cause for concern when the climb became harder 2 metres above the ground. In a bold attempt ^{to} reach easy climbing Tim raised higher, realising that it didn't get ~~any~~ easier a desperate attempt was

made to place a sling which ended with the sling at the bottom of the waterfall. I don't think I have ever seen Tim so worried.

I directed him down 5 metres of desperate down climbing with a confidence I certainly did not feel. We were both extremely relieved when he reached the ground safely. Bolting not needed.

The top of ^{the} waterfall ~~is~~ does look good - we could clearly see a rift passage continuing ~~at the top~~.

We had noticed a large passage above the first climb and I spotted a crack up through ~~the~~ boulders into it. It turned out to be an enormous alcove with really spectacular views, and well worth the effort. In addition, from the alcove, looking up, we identified a large passage at an even higher level, and realised that coral corner was actually 2 inlets; one coming directly into the chamber from high up and one coming down the waterfall. We are also fairly certain that bolting up the waterfall (4 bolts) will lead to the connect with the large passage we saw from the alcove. All in all we were pretty excited about coral corner and decided to return to it if we had time.

It was getting late so we placed radar detectors (1st set in the entrance rifts), and returned to camp, late, exhausted, but happy.

Saturday / Sunday

Despite having felt slightly less intimidated by the stream on the way back, the last thing I wanted to do was go on up the water, watery stream passage to vicre. In fact after the long day spent at coral corner and the late night I didn't really want to go upstream at all!

We both felt tired from the previous day and knowing the physical and mental demands that going to attempt bolting up vicre would be, felt very tempted to return instead to the promising lead at coral corner.

We also knew that everyone else would feel the same and that

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if we didn't at least look at viagra and if ~~to~~ possible, start boiling it, it would probably ~~not~~^{not} be done.

So, it was with a great deal of reluctance that I put my cooking kit on and at 12.45 (rather remarkably early start,) we set out.

An hour and a quarters elapsed fairly late we arrived at road corner to pick up all the gear. For the hot blue (I wasn't intimidated by the stream although I was decidedly nervous about going on upstream.

(The route finding ~~wasn't until~~ ~~the route~~)

We reached Deep Waters and Tim made an instant decision that he did not want to set out. After a little deliberation he was tetering on two boulders in the middle of the stream and hammering in a bolt on the far wall. Next followed a mad (American) lassoing (how do you spell that?) session until he hooked a spike with a sling and Tim ~~set~~ scrambled/climbed elegantly up to 'safety'. A spike was rigged with ~~our~~^{our} one rope and I prussiked up; dry! We traversed over the wet rift and continued, dry, up the stream. I still felt uneasy about the stream and then we had our first route finding problem looking too early for the way up into fear + looking in Las Brujas. 15 minutes later it was sorted and soon we were passing the ch inlet and despite the water I enjoyed climbing the cascades ~~into the chamber~~ before Viagra. The chamber was fantastic, and the waterfall really impressive. My fee forgotten I concentrated on helping Tim work out the best way up.

I halt on how of shining my powerful electric light, looking at the fall from different angles suggested that the left side looked the best, ~~deep~~ Before making a final decision we went back and tried climbing up before the chamber in case there was an ~~easy~~ easier way up and round.

A quick assessment suggested that it could take time and already it was getting late - if we were to have any chance of getting to the top we would have to start soon.

We decided on the left side, accessible by walking behind Viagra and scrambling up to a dry relatively undraining ledge. We dressed warmly; knives and buffalo jackets and boots in addition to normal caving gear, and at 7:00 p.m. Tim ~~started~~ used a sling for his first gear and then started on the first bolt. I ~~can't~~ describe the next 8 hours, at least not easily. I think it was probably one of the most intense 8 hours either of us have spent underground. The bolting was very very difficult. The rock wasn't always good, the angle ^{was} awkward, the decisions were difficult and crucial, and the waterfall was right there. We had two breaks, but basically Tim worked consistently and I belayed, concentrating intensely at crucial moments, and during the 10 to 30 ~~minutes~~ minutes that each bolt took to hammer, ~~and~~ welding and listening to Viagra, using ridiculous measures to keep warm despite all the layers of clothing. We could not hear each other ~~at 3 a.m. Tim disappeared~~. Other because of the roar of the waterfall but managed to communicate with hand ~~signals~~ signals and one or two word instructions of "slack" or "take in".

At 3 a.m. Tim disappeared over the top following a mad lassoing of what I found out later was an out^{er} right spike that he pulled up on to reach the top. It took an hour to get down, and at one point I had to lower Tim down to collect a blender as he had run out.

Eventually Tim came down, and we both decided we were too exhausted to go up and push it. Tim had looked at the top to see a cascade that could be crossed but needed a line, and beyond - hell spiney rift passage going into the distance.

We stopped in the left inlet on the way back to cut the bottom

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off the rope to put on Deep Waters, and at Coral corner to sort out gear.

We woke Rich and Kiley up at about 7.30 (or was it 8.00?) and they were very excited.

We slept 3 hours and then started eating, deciding perhaps stupidly that it was better to go out during the day than at night. We left camp at 3.30 p.m. for what has to be one of the most ~~exhausting~~ ^{exhausting} trips out, and the walk down was pretty miserable too. But it has to have been ~~one~~ the best trip I've ever done and on the way back from Niagra I was even convinced that the streamway in upstream 2/2 is the most fantastic piece of cave passage EVER. After 4 days intense canyoning the cave inlet leads had been left ~~untouched~~ untouched and still going, Coral corner was looking really good and the ^{end} of upstream 2/7 ~~is~~ now an open lead at the top of Niagra, but most importantly Deep Waters can now be avoided and it is possible to get to the end dry.

Happy Pushing. Cri. (Lou Maurice).

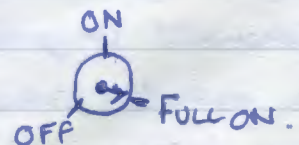
26/7/94 Lev & Granish down GSP

Good trip. Found another 90m pitch.

Lev

Brilliant Expedition week - Thanks everyone, and Bye!
Bolting up Niagra falls? Very Very Very Very Intense.

Tom.



25/7/00 Cave Radio test - Systeme Nicola (aka 'Dolophone').

At 7:30pm the surface party (Lee, Lynn) started listening at the bottom of the TON del Tullayer which was expected to give the best results (shortest distance through rock to the underground set). At 8:15 after no contact ~~was made~~ (agreed rendez-vous time was 8pm) we started to wander around and at around 8:45 started to pick up signals from the underground party (Do). These were fairly clear but not far above the background noise (mainly ~~receiver~~ receiver noise not Loran or lightning). At this point we switched from the portable magnetic dipole loop antenna to the earth current injection system. Four wires of unspun 40m were run out in approximately perpendicular directions and connected to pegs which were ~~was~~ hammered about 15cm into ~~the~~ the most convenient patch of vegetation & watered with about 250ml of water. As soon as the 1st pair was connected immediate 2-way communication was achieved, which was very clear and intelligible in both directions. On the surface the only impediment to reception was the occasional lightning strike which lost the odd word. I'll have to let Jo add her ^{impressions} ~~side~~ but I think any problems she had receiving me were due to my poor radio manner and not the sets themselves. Acceptable results were achieved on all settings but best results occurred with the underground transmitter coupling transformer in position 2 (indicating ^{reasonably} ~~good~~ ~~coupling~~ electrode conductance) and the surface one in position 1 (indicating good conductivity, surprising under the circumstances).

If turns out B was late in for the rendez-vous

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and seems likely we started picking her up as soon as she began transmissions. This is ~~quite~~ impressive as we were not near the bottom of the sea at that time and it seems likely we would have ~~been~~ been able to communicate from any part of the sea, and possibly from even further afield.

These were only prototype units for the new design - later models should be even easier to set up and more cave-proof, and extra features such as full-through box interlocking are planned. With these ~~improvements~~ ^{improvements} I would say the radios would be a great help with our explorations in the area.

Lev.

ESP

Lev & Gavin

28/7/99

Bad trip. Jacked because of high water levels.

10/9

Alison + Lynn

26/7/99

My first trip of expedition this year. We got underground just as a thunderstorm was starting. We reached the ~~the~~ squeeze at the bottom (rip squeak?) but decided against going through. We hammered it for a bit, but then decided neither us really knew how to hammer + headed back to the surface. We reached the surface to find wet rucksacks (& clothes in Lynn's case). As soon as we walked over the first rise we both got a big shock. Something very

odd had happened to Aro! It looked like it had suffered a huge mud slide or ~~etc~~ something similarly extreme. Eventually as we began to walk back up the hill to Aro we noticed small patches of white pellets - ice! As we got closer to Aro it became clear it had been hit by a huge hailstorm, ~~etc~~ + the maltoser size hail stones were now lying like snow everywhere. It was an amazing sight.

Alison

Random note: Z/S sounded like it was talking quite a lot of water during the recent wet weather.
 Len

Rich to Hilary "So, are we going to see your knickers?"
 Hilary "I wish".

To help place this in context:

The predictive "C4" inlet is up to team Z/7 now has some suitable names:

The passage is a whole is "Bare Ase Inlet"
 and the song at the L.O.R. is "Full Moon Rising".
 and the climb/pitch itself is still "Stairway to Heaven"

Even though this has no Ben Exposure co-notations.

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Find (Derigging / Pushing / Surveying) Camp. JC, Rich, Pip, Mils, Jo.

Day 1: Blagged my way onto Pip + Jo's Big Ledge carrying trip, as I was keen to tie up the "C4 Inlet" by surveying and looking for combinations. The passage ends in a rising slope "Full Moon Rising" and is incredibly windy for much of the way suggesting there's something big in the area. Both Pip + Jo seemed glad to have me along, which would make a BC party of 5.

In the rifts it became clear that Pip and I were going to dangle between one picnic site and the next so Jo shuttled off with the radios (See elsewhere), No red leadlines before camp except from the hang-ups on the main leg of Sudr Avenue 2, where Pip's Stry was converted into a "Go" and the re-division on 7th Heaven mysterious moving to the bottom of the pitch. I talked Pip through placing a keyway replacement from a ledge just after the pitch breaks out of the choss. This may warrant a return visit as there seemed to be ^{passage way upstream of this} ledge. _{CDROPS INTO TOP AND OF THE HEAVEN DOWNED SCUMPS MAY BE POSSIBLE TO GET TO TOP OF MOUNT-MAN CANS BUT NOT V. PROMISING}

Met Tim + Lou at Arranged down with their tools or clearing-do, which were captured by Rich + Miley at camp then they muddled in a 4 am with a couple of hundred metres of passage upstream of Uvagra under their belts.

Day 2. Survey "C4 Inlet".

Early start (4 am!), and a showish walk in to the end. Pip took a serious dunking at the Blow-hole but still did not swear. Found the survey instruments at Far + Laalking, but as neither Jo nor Pip could read

the instruments, To get a quick idea in "Boots" which proved to be more than adequate for our purposes. At the inlet, I climbed the original "Striving to Heaven" for old times sake, getting completely stranded in the face in the water squeeze, and then we began. The exposed climb proved out to be 15m above the deck.

At the 2nd Arm chamber To checked out the unposted level on the ~~right~~^{left} hand wall, above a chossy climb. This started encouragingly as a rilly passage but then gave out after 15m or so as a choke of infill + conglomerate. Back in the main passage we continued to swing, getting colder + colder + colder. There is a mighty wind in the passage which runs to level upwards about 30m or so before the swing. We chose to survey the wider, but windier + bendy upper route, in preference to the lower grounds, and found 2 routes to even higher levels which were not pushed to conclusions. These lie about 20 and 40m back from the swing and could be with further investigation. The -20m climb is a muddy ground ~~leading~~ from the lower passage, leading to a clean-washed climb (despotic), then a squeeze down into a mud floored chamber. This could be climbed further into rilly passage above. A squeeze under a flake (the despotic climb) bypasses the grey about 10m to the chamber.

The other level was at -40m was a sloping upwards passage I found when trying to locate a good survey station. This is directly above the point where the upper level narrows to pass on either side of a flake in the middle of the passage. We did not investigate the stream level (-5m) below main passage, but this looked pretty horrid on the night party trip.