

At At Aris: The Return of the Magnificent One. Wednesday 1st August
to Monday 6th August.

Ascended to Aris with John over lunch-time on Wednesday: somewhat hot. Spent the afternoon looking at cairns and caves prior to surveying tomorrow. "Tomorrow" I started the survey and did most of the East Ridge. Helped John poke his nose down one or two holes-in-the-ground, and had a look at a few more. John went back to Los Lagos this evening. Found I was not alone in the tent however. - A subterranean visitor insisted on unleveling the ground, a mole. Friday was a fester-day since I couldn't see more than 10m due to the mist. And that doesn't help in triangulation. Played "kiss" with the SIE group up there and "talked" about caves and caving. Pointed out that duplication/triplication of effort cannot be avoided if people don't mark the caves they've done. Next day bright red circles had appeared on $\frac{1}{2}$ the cave entrances we'd found!! Further problem we agreed on was lack of communication between clubs who have "expedited" to the Picos - and thus a lack of centralized information. It seems, for example, that the Freix/Vento dye-test has already been done by Paris University - although even SIE haven't been informed of the result. Back to Friday: Colin was supposed to "come up" this evening - but didn't. Hence, as the bread had run out, yours truly was condemned to Protoreg or Protoreg... or Protoreg with Protoreg for the next three or four meals. Saturday was a good day surveying-wise. Colin came up in the

evening with a festering Dave and Skippy. They pointed out that they needed the compass I was using to survey P.P. but had neglected to bring up anything which might in any way replace it for triangulation. A good supply of compasses etc is a must. It's a waste of a day to have to go and get one or wait for one to be free. And man-days are setten. So Sunday was spent hurriedly surveying the rest while Colin fell down $\frac{9}{5}$ into which I had already put my foot - literally - two days before: which was the only reason that I found it. Compass departed at about 8pm and I went and played Risk with the SIE lot and copied up my figures. Monday morning - sketching the "features of the landscape" Monday afternoon - showing Mike & Dave "all over the area" and looking for more entrances. One only found - above $17/5$, $18/5$ and $19/5$ which I found on Sunday - along with $16/5$ which is $5/5$ - and $21/5$. $20/5$ doesn't look very hopeful. $17/5$ is already checked. Leaving $18/5$, $19/5$ and $21/5$ which all look (and sound!) good and new - $18/5$ and $21/5$ have, I think, definitely not been located before. Al

(P.S. Forgot to mention that arm came out of place on Saturday !!)

Pessimista por = Pozo del Cabezal home (Asturian)

or
Pozo del Cabezal del hombre (Castil)

Name of Area (S+E
"into")

Monday 6th August

Dave and Mike - Went up to Aris

Skunk, Skippy, Colin/Winnie, Mark & Simon took the two vehicles to Arriondas, for money / shopping / Land Rover repair. The repairs took only 6 hrs, and cost 4500 pts for new leaves and repaired puncture

Jim, John, Kevin - Surveying a Pessimista Pozo

An early start (:- 10 am down the cave) proved to be a good thing as Finkle crawl had to be rerigged (we couldn't find the correct squeeze to the head of the Maulow pitch) and Multiple light failure occurred below Limbo passage.

Jim and Kevin tried Geriatric squeeze and couldn't get through and so the party surveyed back to G2 passage and then made a speedy exit to emerge at around seven o'clock. p.m

~~Micro photographs in mud palace by Skippy, etc~~

Tuesday 7th August

Pessimista Pozo: Survey finish + photos + derigging.

Plan: John Skunk Mark Winnie & Shippy to survey from Geriatric squeeze to bottom, Jim Kev Simon to go to Arriondas to get parafin & then come in & help with detaching this side of Geriatric squeeze. Skunk Mark + John left at 11 am leaving Shippy + Win to wait for return of van, as Shippy's

photographic gear still in it. Skip & Winnie left at 1230 & caught the others up at G-II. Gerry Squeeze negotiated by all without too much difficulty & surveying of mid palace etc undertaken by John Mark & Winnie whilst Skippy took photos with Shunk as a model ??? (carefully positioned so as his back always to the camera)

Surveying done, A flash powder epic was arranged of mid palace which was a ~~and~~ spectacular success, Although John narrowly avoided 3rd degree burns lighting the 0.5 microsecond fuse, and annoyed the others by screaming, either with delight, fear or pain I'm not sure which.

A long slow exit slog then began with detackling, hauling etc. To cut a long story short Jim & co. emerged at about 3-am whilst Shunk & co arrived back at about 7am, suitably cream crackered, but a good job done.

Skippy

Wednesday 8th August.

Everyone rested (some more than others).
Skunk (W.M.C.E.G)

Thursday 9th August.

The big move to Ario. Skippy was well laden + slow and Suion, Ker, John and Winnie acted as sherpas
And Jim & Mark
Skunk (W.M.C.E.G)

Friday 10th August.

Pozu del Xitu.

Pushing party :- Jim and Skunk.

Time :- 8 1/2 hours.

The weather was glorious, Aris at its best. The SIE were just getting up as we left. On our walk to the pot we saw a young lady evacuating her bowel by the side of the path who smiled and said 'Holy ~~shit~~' and seemed totally unconcerned.

We entered Pozu del Xitu at 10:30 am with a 70m length of bluewater and made quick progress down a number of well rigged short pitches on Edelweiss and Bluewater, to virgin cave. The next pitch had a number of take offs and Skunk chose the largest for ease and banged in a bolt. A reasonable natural belay was used as a backup.

Skunk descended first and just managed to bottom the pitch on the rope available. Now standing on a rock bridge between 2 pots and in perfect line of fire, Jim descended and accidentally sent a large piece of rock down the pitch. This aim was perfect and hit Skunk a treat on the back of the neck. No blood, just a bump.

The next pitch looked a cracker. Jim's turn. 2 natural belays gave a good hang with a good back up. With visions of running out of rope Jim descended. Sadly this was not the case.

all he found was a Skunk type hole at the bottom so Skunk descended. After a wriggle it narrowed down to about 200mm, so we prussiked back up. At the top of the pitch a route led down to a large fossilised chamber with a rift in the floor. This was descended and led to a complex area of junctions and inlets. The passageway descended steeply with numerous short climbs. Finally we came upon streamway. About 0.5m size, more water and looking like ofr. Black limestone with calcite bands. Very impressive. A short cascade was freeclimbed and we were finally halted by a short 4m annoying pitch. A return with a ladder and botting kit is necessary. We then looked upstream till we thought time was running short (no watch!) and then made our way out.

A quick exit was made up this well rigged pitches.

A memorable trip - the epitome of cave exploration.

Skunk (W.M.C.E.G)

10/8/79 Shippy + Mark 8/5 push.

Late start due to good weather, apathy, loss of net holding Shippy's rack together etc. At entrance met shepherd who disappeared down & emerged with nibbled cheese, evidently damaged by rats. However, he made it clear that this was his cave & he did not mind us going down it. So we did, entrance full of smelly cheeses. Ripped 10m 1st pitch with a ladder, 2nd pitch followed immediately put 2 bolts in as no decent belay to give approx 22m nice pitch. A second climb down followed then rift enlarged for a short while. Dropped a 5m ladder down next bit of rift traversed along to find another rift pitch, estimated about 40 feet. No tackle left, so derigged previous 5m pitch & freeclimbed it, then dropped that 5m ladder down on an excessively long belay. Shippy then climbed down (this was cold see the bottom about 25 feet from the bottom of the ladder. Leisurely uneventful exit made with resolve to return tomorrow with more tackle.

~~Shippy~~ (w.m.c.e.c.)

P.S

Relationships with the S.J.E seem to be developing well. Bwup!

Q.O.C.C. Quotations.

Armando. Mañana sol.

Jui. I never made any pretentions to being a superhero.

Susan. Uno ponche por favor.

Colin. Oh dear its turned septic.

John. oh shit its broken.

Mark. It can't be that bad.

Skippy. Its about 40'.

Kevin (Oliver Twist). Is there any more food left?

Skunk. I dont know what you're complaining about, I can't smell a thing.

Al. Greetings, world

Mike. Oh dear this ropewalker is upside down.

Dave. Please God, don't let it rain while I'm having a crap.

Liz. If you roll it up smaller, it will fit in better.

Jan. I seem to have laddered my tights.

Kathy. Hang on a minute, let me get my breath back.

Pete. Whats the spanish for "I want to screw your daughter."

Martin. I'm not sure where we are, but I think its over the next hill.

Graham. Well... According to my calculations... a conservative estimate would be 80m deep.

Stephen. ... If this was Ffestiniog...

Skunk (W.M.C.E.G.)

S.I.E.

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This is a simile drawn between caving and women.
To be added to!

Quote: Winnie - It often seems that the worst thing you can do to a cave is discover it!

Swide: i) A cave starts off virgin but soon loses it. The more use it has the larger it becomes, also not as loose.

ii) The peculiarities of the cave become well known.

iii) The smallest holes often have the greatest potential

iv) Yorkshire holes are wetter than Mendip holes.

v) Some like 'em tight.

vi) Smaller holes have bigger draughts.

vii) Some holes need more equipment than others

viii) It is necessary to keep your gear clean to get anywhere

ix) Precautions need to be taken to prevent accidents

x) Skunk spent 2 1/2 hours in a short hole.

xi) Some holes require leaders

xii) Access fees are required for some holes.

xiii) Some holes are infected. (with weil diseases)

xiv) Some people spend all their life down one hole.

xv) Alternative entrances are often little used.

xvi) Sandy holes are a grind.

xvii) Oh dear 'ds Sumped!

xviii) One can often end up with sores after a good

weekend.

- xix) From now on I fancy myself as a big shaft man... Quote - Jim.
- xx) Teamwork is essential.
- xxi) Tight holes often involve a lot of banging.
- xxii) Depth is not easily gained.
- xxiii) Some like them long, some like them deep.
- xxiv) Very few require swimming.
- xxv) Free diving is not advisable.
- xxvi) After many trips one gets to know every rock and cranny.
- xxviii) Holes often do not go as far as one would like.
- xxviii) Universities often arrange expeditions to investigate virgin holes.
- xxix) The entrances of some holes require clearing before entry can be made. *of Pessimists.*
- (xxx) After a trip on some holes, some time in a pub is required to recover.
- (xxxi) Some holes can only be entered safely at certain times.
- (xxxi) Every hole is different.
- xxxii) Usually, the further down some holes you push, the wetter they become.
- xxxiii) There is nothing worse than puncturing your rubber oversuit at the bottom of a wet hole.