

Tue 23 July, 10³⁰ am - 10⁴⁵ pm The Photographic Megatrip, starring
Cueva del Oru & Stephen Gale,

31

by Martin Hides, slowed down to terrestrial speed (as opposed
to martian) ~~by~~ by Hilary & Gerhard

Well, so the trip has come off (and early in the morning, too). Equipped with a saddlebag
3 ammo-bases and 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ sets of SRT gear the four of us arrived at the entrance
about 9¹⁵-ish (after H. & G. having got lost at the rear), ~~got~~ ^{witted} up and ~~got~~ ^{walked} in. After some
more getting-lost ~~found~~ ^{found} the way down, thrutched down the more or less exposed climbs, found
a snail-shell and reached the big pitch. Abseiled on a thin bouncy climbing rope (no
decent length of SRT rope left in Lagos!). Brilliant big & decorated ~~pitch~~ shaft. Down through
the boulders to the right, to the T-junction, and upstream first. Stopped for sets of shots at
the false floors just below the Martian Spaceship, and at the latter itself, with M.'s bleeping
flashguns providing the appropriate Star Trek soundtrack. Stopped again for a brief refuelling
of our generators & ourselves at the upstream sump. Steve "it would have fallen off to-
morrow anyway" Gale took some sizeable geological samples - not the first known case
of Wind Erosion in Oru. More shots on the way back & downstream. Climbed up to
Gigatal Chamber, walked around in ~~the~~ the vast Camp Chamber, stopped for a picnic &
fettling, left the photographic gear behind at last and walked (much lighter of heart) on
to the Cascades, where we decided we'd seen the best bits ^{already} and the downstream sump
was still far away; so we turned after about 7 hours. By now Hilary was sporting a bright
4" flame while Steve's & my carbides decided to get choked ~~time and again~~ ^{time and again}.
Unwontful retreat to the pitch, the burdens of our food tins, chocolates etc. (let me
pass over the details lest someone become envious) having been replaced by tons of
rock and some hammered bits of metal. Martin bounced up the rope first; we'd
pulled half of it through his ascenders before he leaped off. Hilary for her first
"real" SRT trip after ~~the~~ the crash course by S.G. last Sunday) followed considerably
more smoothly with helpful comments from below and above. Then the rope itself
disappeared up into blackness and reappeared mysteriously ^{carrying} Steve's ascender ~~stuck down~~
(which Hilary had been using). Two more bouncy ascents, both made more interesting
by Nobody holding the rope taut. By now we were ^(well, I at least was) too tired to notice the exposed
climbs at all. Picked up some rubbish left by last year's explorers (3) including
one pair of socks (smelling, astonishingly, of washing powder). Out into the last
light of dusk.

Net result: Longest trip ever for two of us, a fair number of portraits of S.G. (on
stereo, partly) walking in natural gorilla attitude under false floors; some bits of
rocky dreams of bleeping stals, bounding pebbles & bones, and what not...

24th July: Photo trip down Culiembra 8 hrs
Paul, Nicola, Martin H.

No-one else can be bothered to write this up so I will try. After shopping ^{was dealt} with Cangas and a long walk up we did not get underground till 3 p.m. A wonderful start to the cave

with a little swim which Martin took a great dislike to, as he was the only one in dry kit. The cave continues as a large passage with wonderful pretties and so a few pictures were taken

After this we generally stomped along taking a few piccies on the way. The pitches up and down were generally dealt with

quite slowly as we only had 2 sets of SRT gear. After ^{As} ~~the~~ pitch down I walked

down the slope and found myself waist deep in a crystal clear pool where it is

almost impossible to ~~find~~ see the level of the water.

Anyhow back up the slope we wandered around

and found the way down to the main stream which

we followed to the terminal ^{swamp} where more

photos were taken. Exited in 2 ~~with~~ hours

and got out at 11 pm. A long, knackered walk

followed by the drive meant we did not get

back before 3 a.m. ~~the~~ What greeted us was

a scene of devastation as the tents generally failed the wind test.

- Brilliant cave - well worth a car load going just to do a tourist trip if they've

the time - Richard was certainly not exaggerating with his enthusiastic write up!

Superb clear crystal green pools, huge quartz crystals (they really were quite honest!)

& white foamy water thundering down the streamway... Well worth the while.

- You need a rope protector on the SRT ~~see~~ pitch ~~to~~ for future trips...

Fri 26/7.

SGM arrives in mist to whip up enthusiasm for the acc cases at Top Camp. Meets Richard + Dave - Fred + Phil on way. No pubs with cavers for a day or so. Good luck lads! Then to Bar. Campsite destroyed by storm previous day. Van disappeared to Cango to be repaired. My tent completely pushed. Another insurance claim.

Arvi Weatherstation - - -

Cond. just measuring cylinder. About 1cm³ of water in bottle at 09:35. Empty it etc. to water-gauge for measurement later. OK? What is the cylinder.

Misty + hostile here. Ugh. Rae arise.

Fri 26 July

El Hoyo Los Madre (yet again), 3³⁰ - 7pm,
Steve Davies, John Wilcock & Gerhard N.

Record time (3 1/2 hrs) & no sweat ~~was~~^{was} completely misty and drizzly, so we were trenched & soaked by the purest rain- & dewdrops only, and that to the skins (in my case, through both skins). Verified that our 4 dye detectors were still there and positioned the YUCPC patented Lycopodium trap in a sidebranch of the stream. Happy fishing, Simon! - Slight navigational problems on the way there since Belbin was inside a cloud and we couldn't see the continuation of the path until we'd crossed it, clouds courteously lifted for the way back.

By now there's a fairly obvious & well-beaten track down the gorge involving only one (5 ft) grassy overhang climb. G.N.

Monday 29th July

Orange tent apparently washed through at the weekend. Arrived last night in rain and wind. Please could people remember to take the rain measurements?

Many

Tuesday 30th July

Sean was left in charge of base camp (very bored) for the past 3 days & coped with the orange tent leaks (at present this tent is unusable and people may have to sleep in the back of the van.) Margot arrived on her motor bike, ^(on Schindler's) then did a carry of her carrying gear to Arico, and rubbish back to base camp. John W & Steve D. arrived from top camp via ~~to~~ ^{Arico} 1715. Sue arrived from top camp 2000.

Wed 31st 0800.

About to leave for Arica. Heris Gerhard's shopping list for Arico ^{it disappeared very} we haven't taken any kitty money. We'll go shopping with the 2nd party later. Margot

31/7/85 10:40 am Steve packed to go - Van documents + carrying permit new in Sean's tent (sit nearest kitchen) Sean

31/7/85 5:15 pm Gerhard down from Arico to look after the "shopping list" personally since Arico is running out of bread, petrol & guess what - ^(Follow it.) ~~no~~ inflates. G.'s method to find Top Camp: Take compass bearing. Get lost. Discover some Cairns. Follow them. Get lost. Notice a path marked in blue. Follow it. Loose it. Spot the eyeholes. Follow them. Get lost. End up inside a cloud. Turn back to Arico. Follow path marked in red. Get lost in the dark. Follow compass. Get lost over a precipice overlooking a deep ddine. Notice you're standing on a yellow dot facing a wall with "715" written on it. Follow the well-known Jultayu path. Get lost. Takes about 5 1/2 hours all in all with a pack as heavy as mine and a flat headtorch battery. Not recommended for imitation. G.N.

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P.S. This camp has become a lot more chaotic since I saw it last.
Shame on you.

7^{PM}: Leave for Ario, taking along:

4 loaves of bread, 12 eggs, several peppers & tomatoes, 2 apples,
3 tins cornflakes, 1 tin Molic, 1 tin tomatoes, 6 tins J. West-meat
(2 each), 4 bags Stewart & Lefford meats, 1 bottle olive oil, 1 pack rice,
1 pack spaghetti, 3 tins mandarin segments, 10 bin liners, and
Martin Hides' sledge with petrol for the stove. GRACIAS.

Could someone going up to Top Camp tomorrow morning please come to pick me up.
Preferably after I've read the rain gauge. Let's get lost together... & I hope the
above list baits someone into looking after Ario (& its met station) when I'm off!
G.W.

1st Aug. 1354h.

Had a 'get rid of El Jefe in style' day out yesterday. Most
people got pissed on the beach & spent lots of energy building
dams. Came back to Caugas & had a wash-up for 14 at the
Pro Grande. Steve, Nicola & John W. stayed at Caugas in
John's campervan, the rest of us came back up to Lagos.

This morning we all jarted about getting ready to
plod back up the mountain in the mist. I entertained
everyone by giving Fred a crew cut, which I think is
very nice, but he does look a bit like an SS officer. Harge

MESSAGE for HUTCH

Hutch's helmet, generator & belay belt are all in my
George asbestos bag at the back of the green tent. Can whoever
sees him first tell him this please?

My thanks for their use - sorry I couldn't have asked him.

I used them to go down Culmbro.

Best wishes to him, Ukey, Phil, St Diance -

as see you all evening!

Alfred

NEXT PEOPLE TO TOP CAMP

Please bring GAS (a big cylinder - two if poss.) + PETROL

Paul + Nicole up Friday pm taking general food.

Wed. 31st July

John W's van down early with Sue & Steve Davies to meet bus in Arriondas. Sat in bar most of morning and the bus to Hendaye departed eventually at 11.10. Yellow van arrived with Steve R. + many others and then we all set off for the beach day at Ribadesella. This was a very pleasant day with much building of sandcastles against the rising tide, an alcoholic lunch on the beach leaving Fred flaked out for most of the afternoon. After a session at another bar/snack bar on the seafront returned to Cangas. The day was marred by the theft of John W's wallet containing Spanish & English money, credit cards, insurance documents, driving licence and passport - this has not been recovered. Evening meal in the Rio Grande in Cangas, then John W., Nicola & Steve R. departed in the camping van, camping near Arriondas ~~on the~~ just uphill from the Santander road. The site was pleasant but marred by several barking & howling dogs all night - Nicola had a vivid dream involving OVCC members dressed in black fannies, ears and dog face masks; you had to discriminate between these OVCC members and some real wild dogs mixed with them.

Thurs 1st August


Chauffeur trip to Santander to see Steve R. on the ferry. John W., Nicola & Steve R. Theft reported to Guardia Civil and replacement temporary passport obtained. Big shopping trip in Cangas on way back. F. is departed. La Jefa Nicola Rules OK? !

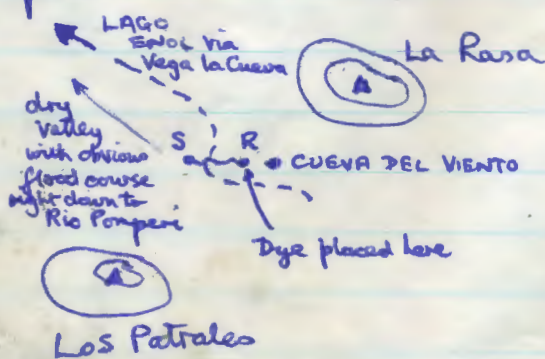
Friday 2nd August

Culembro cave trip John W., Ian, Sean, William Iestyn. left 0855. Drive in camping van to Canarmena. 2hr hike up Caves gorge - very hot. Luckily Iestyn knew where the cave entrance was. Cave trip until ~~2100~~ 2100. A superb cave. Walk back to bar, taking the scree path from the hydroelectric canal where the other path climbs ^{Many songs sung on way.} Session in bar until 2345. Drive back arriving at base camp 0130, with mist up the hill, but absolutely clear at base camp with full moon & prominent Jupiter.

Rhodamine still visible in sump. Dye detectors found high & dry and repositioned - see remarks in detector list on pp. 20., 21 of this log. ~~Card~~ Card arrived from Steve Galk, posted in Spain, with various queries & requests about weather recording & dye tracing. John W. will place Rhodamine B in Cueva del Viento resurgence as requested, on 3rd August.

Saturday 3rd August

Sean, Ian, William, John W, Iestyn, Dave getting kit for next top camp caving. John W. placed 500 ml concentrated Rhodamine B solution in the resurgence just below Cueva del Viento 1500 3.8.85. This resurgence could not be fixed because of mist. However, its location is well known, since it was charted by the 1961 Expedition below C15 (Cueva del Viento). After a few cascades the stream crosses the main path then sinks. On the Picos de Cornion map it is marked as the spring symbol  midway between ~~Los Patrales~~ ^{La Rasa} and Los Patrales in a bend of the path:



The height of the resurgence is approx. 1310m

This dye injection was requested by Steve C. postcard.

Sean leaving tomorrow, so taken down by car to Arriandas tonight so as not to require ferrying tomorrow when carrying at top camp will be more profitable. Most of the current inhabitants of base camp ~~left the point~~ ^{planned to leave} for Arico or Top camp, late afternoon or early evening, but the atrocious drizzle prevented this. Ian, Iestyn, John & Bill ^{planning to move up on Sunday} slept at base, ^{Duncan} Phil ^{arrived} 2130. Waie, John H + 2 should arrive tomorrow.

4.8.85 Ian left for top camp, feeling a little ill. Iestyn, Bill also to top. John W. to Arico to get tent & kit, then to top. Phil in base camp. A small log book with mostly empty pages (from Steve Roberts's box) has been found and is being taken to top by John W., with some fluorescein for F20 & 1/6 trace. Gas & jam is being taken to top. Jam is out at Base camp - more to be bought.

Wed Aug 7th

Phil, I, Ukey, John H & Duncan arrived Sun evening.

Ukey went to T.C. on Monday - too keen if you ask me.

Then I went shopping but everything was cerrado due to it being a Dia Festivo. Eventually I found an open shop & bought lot of wash much to their surprise.

People came ^{down} & went up, much to my & I's surprise. Spent most of Tuesday in the Maria Rosa. Wrote in the morning. G & T in the evening.

[Faint handwritten notes and diagrams at the bottom of the page, including a circled '20' and some illegible text.]

DYES put in: - (Detectors - see page 20/21)

Rhodamine B solution has been put in Cueva Culienbro (don't ask me why - I was foolishly following Steve Gales instructions...)

Rhodamine B also put in Cueva del Uenta (see page 37) - God knows why. Steve G apparently asked for this to be done ~~but~~ in his postcard. John W put it all in + I never knew anything about it until after it had all happened...

Fluorescein has been put in F20 streamway.

Rhodamine should have been put in Ridge Cave but the long + short of it is that Steve's ~~old~~ ^{old} people to put Rhodamine in funny places + now we can't know ~~where~~ ^{where} Rhodamine's been ~~used~~ traced from if it's put down Ridge as well...

DON'T put Fluorescein in Ridge Cave... please This will

totally fuck up every thing. As it is it's been pretty bugged for various reasons so please don't put Fluorescein anywhere else..

What's left to be done is a surface survey of F20 to Ridge Cave and 2/6 and F20 to Perdices.

These are all very important and would only take a day for all of them.

THURSDAY Aug 8th

QUOTE OF THE DAY By Duncan Giechris

"Are Mornfakes rationed?"

Yes - maximum one tin per person per day!

Thu 8/8/85 ~~Yelts~~ Trio with full gas cylinder (to be used as long as there's a stove there, then to go up to Top), some cinnamon (ditto) and jam (ditto), 2 bin liners & a loaf of bread (will be crushed by the time I arrive...).

Bye-bye, Ian & Iestyn & Martin H...

Gerhard

8-8-85

Okey - I have left my rusa in the back of the van { Green Jaguar 6 } Please give it a saucer of milk every night. It does not like holes nor detergent { no detergente! }

A PLEA!

CAN I HAVE A
PROC 11 PLEASE!!

No the expedition doctor has gone now.