

could fall on us, and distinctly unhappy in boulder-stream passages. We will not be going back to 66/5 again. We are thankful that we are still alive.

P.S. The purpose of our trip was to finish rigging the cave which we did, should you wish to go down there.

Tony's little bit extra: at the end of the cave a tight squeeze was passed at floor level (no gear job), immediately following which a slight enlargement leads to a duck and further squeeze over slabs into an enlargement. A short length of sideways crawling in a above a small overflow trickle drops into an enlargement. (Hint good turning space) and a deep water duck with small, maybe un-usable airspace freeding possible (on electric) probably very short, certainly very cold. Ducks might be bailed.

Total passage length \approx 10m, named ~~Heroin~~ Heroin from the Doors song containing the lines

"Heroin be the death of me ...

Heroin it's my life and it's my wife"

Only addition explains this sort of picking.

P.S. Pauline, why not believe in Her? The wicked sense of humour seems more feminine, and only that sort of sense of fun would create a look over a world like this.

Thursday 9 July

8/11

Paul, Steve

1991 limit is at the top of an undescended climb described at the time as being "about 10m deep". Paul belayed a ladder from a flake about 2m down into the rift. At the bottom of the ladder, the rift opened out to 2-3m wide with wide sloping ledges on each side. The rift could be seen to descend a further 10m to water. The rift is passable horizontally in both directions, the water appearing to drain to

*the rift is narrow, but descendable.

⑬ the west.

A bolt was inserted at the head of the first pitch (my first bolt!) and the cave was rigged for SRT as far as the head of the second pitch, thus freeing the ladder from the first pitch to be used in the rift (see above). Attempts by Paul to bolt the 2nd pitch were unsuccessful (on his second attempt - the bolt split the rock) and hence the second ladder could not be used to descend to the bottom of the rift.

We hope to go back on Saturday, taking an electric drill to bolt the second pitch. We have left the cave rigged. Promising, - not bad for my first day's shaft bashing!

Steve.

P.S. After this, the quality of my write-ups can only get better.

Thursday / Friday 9.10 July. 217

Timmy rigged from above for that false floor down to the far side of the crack pad. Stopped from getting to big ledge by lack of mailboxes, but plenty of tape and knots, few wires. Down there is short rope on work pad which needs deslipping and replacing with 90m which is also down there.

Reasonable trip, thanks to Sean and Richard for cave to end of rifts. I've just got back (16m 8.00)

and I think I might go to bed for a little while as this cave is tired.

Sean and Richard had carried a tubelbag full of rope to the end of the rifts a few hours previously. Rich had "just" got here @ last. The day is kindly to walkers who hate the heat (the you hardly notice the distance since you cannot see it!) Steve + Sean kindly made tea with the last 2 Namima's honey silver tea bags and went shaft-bashing.

11/7/92

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So far David has packed for the campers:

3 sleeping sets

12 lbs of raven food

3 tubes Penicillin

28 club biscuits

2 bog rolls

1 treacle

all the chocolate Pauline gave me

3 lbs of stona bix

all the shit biscuits — " —

1 pkt mashed potato.

12 instant thoop.

plastic bags.

Friday 10 July

Shaft bashing

Sam, Steve

We went shaft bashing in the W of area 11, on the N slopes of Cabeza La Forma, an area that does not appear to have been shaft bashed before. At first we explored the area around the path to the Arco refugio (inbetween Cabeza La Forma and Cabeza Las Campanas) and then headed N along the valley lying to the E of the ridge joining these two mountains.

Our first and best find was by Sam. This is a vertical shaft lying 5m N of the path. The top is triangular and roughly 2.5m x 1.5m. The shaft is about 10m deep and a passage can be seen heading S at the bottom. A small snow plug several metres high lies at the bottom. Our first act upon its discovery was to inadvertently drop the relevant half of Gavin's

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map down it, this needs retriaring. This cave
is designated 16/11. It remains undescended.

Our next discovery was also made by Sam. This is a surface rift $0.75m \times 5m$ at the top, approximately 4m deep with a bouldery floor. The rift is orientated N-S. Climbing down into it, the floor can be seen to slope slightly to the S. At the bottom, a tight squeeze leads E. Removing one or two boulders would make it passable. Looking through it, a human-sized passage can be seen heading N. It may narrow or choke after a few metres.

A few minutes later, a tight vertical slit was discovered 10m to the North. It is almost certainly the end of the passage emerging from the above rift. 2 or 3 small holes in the rock lie along the line between this slit and the above rift.

Someone excessively bored or enthusiastic ought to explore this passage - who knows, there may be more passage leading off in the unexplored section. This cave is designated 17/11.

I next discovered a sizeable rift near the base of the steep W side of the valley. It is approximately 15m long and 5m deep, running N-S and inclined at approximately 20° to the N. The floor is very bouldery and there are numerous perched boulders along its length. We explored it - there are no leads.

My next discovery was further down the valley and lies at the bottom of a large, obvious

of Pterodactyl Pitch, but this just dropped straight down into the main passage. We then climbed up into the top of the main passage, past many formations. A noticeable draught was present here. We ended up at the top of the pendule rope on Piranhas without spotting any side passages. There was little draught noticeable at the start of Big Biscuit Rift so we deduced that the source of the draught must be the far side of Piranhas. We penduled across [there is currently a single rope rigged: abseil part way down and prusik up the other side], and climbed up to the top. This area draughts quite a lot although there is no obvious source - I think that it's basically a big boulder choke with a wind blowing through it. Richard checked out a climb at the top, but nothing going. I then looked down. The Rift lead just led to a choke, but climbing down through boulders where the rope ends leads into a rift: in one direction it looks over Piranha chamber; in the other direction it gets a bit tight and goes round a corner. I didn't push it, but it looks promising - draughts quite well and carries a small stream. This is probably the best lead and should be followed up.

Saturday 11 July. Carrying through 2/7 rifts

David, Dave, Pauline, Sam, Steve

David Monaghan set off bright and early, followed later by myself, Steve, Dave and Pauline (carrying). After a hot walk up and a good look through the eye-hole (what a long way down!), we

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followed an impatient David resplendent in nice shiny new gear down 2/7 all carrying tackle bags of camping gear. David and Steve reached the end of the rifts after 2 1/4 hours, myself and Dave taking 10 minutes longer after I got stuck in Paradise Rift trying to take a very narrow way down (I'm sure it's the way Steve and I come up unguided on our first trip). I also tried to fly the last several metres of Flying Rébelles. The trip out was far more straightforward, zipping through paradise in a few minutes with a bit of gardening. Journey out took 3 hours altogether and a chockful Tony carrying 200 metres of rope passed by at Seventh Heaven.

All round, an enjoyable carry, out in daylight.

Sam

Shaft Boring - 5/4. 12/7/92 Sean Sam Steve

Went shaft boring in area 4 and started by looking at 5/4 (when we found it) because that was where Gavin had left the gear. First pitch to snow plug was rigged with the 15m rope, and descended by Sean and Steve. Steve demanded a traverse line over the 45° snow slope and I found a promising looking rift at an end of the chamber. Back out to don warmer carrying gear and re-rig the pitch properly with the 25m rope and a bolt. It would have been 2 but the rock was too loose, and the wire had to stay. This rope then served as a line over the snow, and a hand-line for the rift which leads down about 8 metres, and would benefit from having a ladder rigged on it. Steve did buy but he used a spreader round a stall, and the ladder was removed on the way out. Landing on a snow-filled rift wire reached a narrow pitch, and placed bolts for end of traverse line.

10 ed again out

1/2 of 7 hang. Using these two bolts, the pitch was descended 10 metres to where it opened out. A rift passage is visible leading off at the bottom, but more rope is needed.

Shaft Boring

13/7/92 Gavin

First visited area to west of Jultayn bowl. Found 46/7 (snow plugged, but worth a visit later in the expd). Then 43/7 on left (true right) hand side of limestone above 46/7 (apparently undescended). Also two new caves: 44/7 small hole 5m south of 46/7. 5m climb undescended. 45/7 30m WNW of 46/7. Rift with snow plug. Possible way on past the snow.

The area between here and area 9 is fairly blank. It contains lots of big dolines with some slopes all around. Not worth visiting.

Then went to area 9. Found 2 large shafts (40m?) above La Jayada. These may drop into La Jayada, but worth checking. The Wiggly one is also worth checking.

Just below the Curiente - Verdillengre ridge (100m to col on bearing 160°) is are several 30m shafts with snow in them. 16/9

A bit lower, on (L) side of valley in an area of karst with lots of blind shafts is a 10-15m pitch with my sunglasses at the bottom. 106° Curiente, 122° second summit of Curiente: C5
This might be C4

To (R) (time (E)) of La Joyada is a green area with an obvious chinked shakehole. Uphill to the (R), over a little ridge is ~~rather~~ a shallow valley with snow plug. In (true) (R) side is cliff, clamber down and double back under boulders. Not pushed further, at 17/9

I haven't numbered these last 3 as I need a map to work out which area they're in. I've now found a map and numbered them, although I'm still not sure where area C is

5/4 + 9/4. Sean, Sam, Steve. 13/7/92.

- Returned to 5/4 and rigged 2nd pitch. This descends through the rift into a larger shaft, which stops abruptly. From here a couple of shafts connect, with snow in them. These may connect to caves in the region of 7/4. A stream (of snow melt) flows out in a WNW direction after a slight left-right bend. This is very light but it appears to widen out a little towards the bottom (harder rock?).
 Derigged cave and looked at 16/4 (in the cliff). This was too hard to rig, so we headed down 9/4, placing a bolt for the first (18m) pitch. From here, two shafts lead off. The right hand is ~5m deep and partly climbable. It appears to connect with the left-hand shaft which gives a 3-4 second drop, possibly a rattle following. This looks like a wide rift, 20-30 m deep.

Sean.

The evening of Monday 13/7/92

Trodged up slowly in quite a deal of heat to beautiful sights of the gradually sinking sun. Arrived @ base to find the Geshbats at home, Sean just on his way down (which reminds me - we left out this evening on top of Sad 4 to speak to base. I stopped for a desperately needed orange) and Richard and Gavin sharing a box of wine @ the newly reopened, but scarcely changed, Refugio.

(20) Then the best bit of the evening started with the moon switching on like a search light as it rose above the central massif. We watched its huge bright battery dome slowly rising above the mountains, then leapt to see the sun sinking into a sea of soft clouds with mountain islands dotted through it. Lisa exclaimed that this was the beauty of Ariz. She's right. So we stopped for more wine + Jiska gave us some bread + cheese + sausage while Paul finished off taking photos. Then it was back to camp by the light of the moon to drink a little more + munch some bread. Tony + Dave B turned up around midnight. Altogether a nice evening.

Tuesday 14/7

The mass ranks of Spanish walkers are once again flooding through Ariz. I'm quite tired of indicating the route. Perhaps we should have a little signpost.

~~Wednesday~~ Sean, Pauline, shaft bashing

[9/4] We put the 25m rope on the entrance pitch leaving us the longer rope to rig on the pitch below, on the left. The pitch below was very difficult to rig as the top of it was mostly calcite. Sean had put a bolt in earlier and with this and 2 wires we achieved a triple hang which didn't quite rub on all 3 places. I went down first. It required a deviation halfway down since there were ledges projecting near the bottom. My deviation did not fall off! I poked around by the light of my glowworm. Sean joined me. Just as I realised that I could see virtually nothing my battery died completely, so we had to Fandem up the rope. (I had left my spare duracell on the surface, Sean had given his to Tony. Moral ...). The pitch is ~ 25m, possibly less and completely choked at the bottom.