

house. Twin shafts, meeting at the bottom, with lots of snow. No way on. The other shafts in that area are still worth looking at though.

Possible Rescue

Time now 00.32

Call out 01.00 for Paul, Harvey, Rob.

Plan: Gavin to head down to find out what the problem is.

Sam to wait at ^{top of 3rd pitch} ~~entrance~~ for further news.
 If no word by 06.00 then general call out to be activated via Refugio radio.

Rob found near Refugio at 01.10

Paul and Harvey found at entrance at 01.20

Rescue returned to base 01.30.

Lessons learnt

- Keep an eye on the time, and allow a realistic amount of time to get out
- Two people isn't really enough for a rescue
- The radios don't work.
- We should arrange an adequate amount of gear at Round Pitch to rig Insalubrious Route if the choke collapses.

Shast Baiting in Area 4

Gavin 15/7

Went looking for 28/4 and S/13 but found neither. But did find the following

○ 29/4 To east of Cabeza Verde is a collection of interconnecting bowls. On LHS ~~is~~ the largest ~~of these~~ is a 15-20m shaft, with a perched boulder above. Faded S/E mark. Cabeza Llambría 153°. Undescended

○ 30/4 20m from 29/4, lower down, 5m climb down to chamber. Marked S/E 30°. Undescended

29/4 and 30/4 are probably S/E caves Pozo Cabeza el Verde numbers 2 and 3, so 28/4 is probably nearby.

○ 31/4 Follow Culiebro path to 1/4, then follow round the about 30m away from the bowl to pick up another path running up and down hill. Don't follow too close to the bowl as this leads to a sheer drop. Uphill is on the left (the right) is an 8m x 8m entrance. Worth checking fully - a climb to the right may go

○ 32/4 ⓧ Downhill from 31/4 is a double bowl. On the ridge between them, at the side nearest the path - but invisible from the path - is a 4m x 4m entrance. No way on

○ 33/4 ○ Over the ridge to the north of 31/4 is a 40m diameter shakehole. On the far side is a shaft, just above the path. Undescended.

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Rigging (Pushing) 8/11

Paul, Rob, Harvey.

Carried gear to current limit of exploration.

Rigged ~~access~~ line on climb + traverse line across bold step on the way.

Rob & I investigated side passages before above climb after deep pool. Rob thinks he's found a way to by-pass the pool. Crawling up a 45° slope in the opposite direction to the climb we found

a) a connection to the place after the pool where you can go straight on instead of doubling back

b) A large shaft which went up ~~about~~ at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the tree outside my back door (~~at least~~) (50 ft). This appears to be source of most of the draft & some of the water.

Paul then rigged the pitch at the limit & we descended. At the bottom is a small chamber with the streamway visible at the other side.

Just before the bottom you land on the level in the rift, which continues on.

Coming up we noticed that the rope was rubbed.

Since the time was nearly 8 pm we decided that we'd better head back. We decided to rig a ladder on the climb down into the small chamber $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the main rift. This was a bad idea because somehow ~~we didn't~~ get Paul & I didn't get out till 1 a.m. despite Rob being $\frac{1}{2}$ way up the 3rd pitch at midnight. We sent Rob out to let people know

that we were on our way, but unfortunately he lost his way to the Refugio & wasn't in time to prevent a call-out, which was skilfully conducted very efficiently. Apologies & thanks to those concerned.

Anyway, I had a most enjoyable trip, & was very pleased to have gone further than Lodein Phosphate rift which had been as far as I got both this year & last. Weid had the deeper bits seemed like a different cave.

Harvey

16/7/43 - Pushing down 8/11 Sam, Gavin and Richard.

Now that the short pitch in Big Wind had been riggered it seemed there was wide open passage to push! How wrong we were.

An efficient trip to big wind meant plenty of time to push and survey. At the bottom of the pitch a rift with water in the bottom led of downstream. It is difficult to tell whether we've hit the main streamway again or not.

The rift continued and a few reasonable big passages joined from the left including a large one. However we couldn't escape from feeling that we were too low. The ~~the~~ passage lowered to a nasty low stoop in water.

Further on the passage started to get bigger. - "Great" thought Sam and me; Gavin however said "We'll meet a sump around the next corner." Not quite, but nearly. - A disgustingly muddy passage which bows down in most directions.

The main passage seems to continue albeit via a low muddy squeeze.

The surveying of new found passage ^{was} ~~is~~ miserably cold and we were glad to be heading out. I noticed the passage about level with the deviation which we were told later by Harvey they assumed to be the main way on. The two could interconnect or maybe not!

17/7/93 - Digging in the valley of dry Jones - Gavin & Richard.

After much indecision as to what to do everyone finally made their minds up and we went off digging 69/5. The promising dig discovered by Gavin, Tony and myself last year. It had certainly progressed since I was last there a year ago as was shown by the pile of spoil heaped up near it.

Gavin dug and I made a stone wall with the spoil and got cold.

We had lunch.

I dug and Gavin just got cold after I discovered that my aim when throwing rocks from the bottom to where Gavin was sitting was particularly bad.

When we had decided that a number of rocks needed bolting before they could be removed we gave up for the day. Gavin looked at a few more digs before we wandered back in the mist to Aris.

Richard.

18.7.93 Richard & Rob go Shaft-bashing - Area 7

Amidst some late morning promise of good weather we set off up to area 7. Our main aim was to find and explore some of the undecided caves around the northern rim of the Sciltage bowl.

We soon found 40/7 and also an obvious shaft which was unmarked but may have been 21/7. From here we proceeded using the shaftbashing guide following its treasure hunt trail type descriptions in search of the caves we wanted. The mist had already started closing in...

Following the ridge upwards we found 24/7 and 23/7. The next cave we wanted to locate was 22/7, however, our initial attempts failed although we did find some unpromising unmarked shafts followed by 41/7 which was decided and bottomed.

Attempts to find further caves, in particular 22/7 upon which all other descriptions seem to be based, were hampered by a further deterioration in visibility. We decided to return early to have some tea!

41/7 Outside the Northern rim of the bowl, 70m downhill from 23/7. The shaft bashing guide suggests an 11m descent but this seems rather optimistic. A simple free climb descends the rift reveals that it closes down in both directions with ~~no~~ no way on.

Rob

17/7/93 Rob Chris & Harvey go on wild goose chase - & find goose!

28/4 (Poru Cabeltha el verde number 1) had been explored by the SIC & apparently ended in a passage too tight to continue on. So far, this cave had not been found by O.U.C.C. & so we set off to find it. Bearing 'Barin Hall' given us directions to the general area in which he thought it might be. An area containing lots of boulders 5-10 mins east of Cabeltha el verde. The SIC also gave a bearing of another mountain.

It occurred to us as we trudged away from Aris towards where we had previously been able to see the now invisible Cabeltha cove through the thickening fog, that we were going to have some difficulty finding this area. Further, the chances of us finding a particular shaft somewhere in this area were fairly remote.

So, basically we were going on a shaft bashing trip impeded by 3 complete sets of carrying gear, loads of lugging gear & ropes & lots of fog.

When we thought we had reached Cabeltha Vale we headed East. This took us to some sheep - and then a snake-hole! Could this be one of the many holes in an area full of holes? Or was it a random lonely hole? Anyway, we dumped ~~our~~ our packs & explored, finding a couple of other snake-holes next to it. So, we could well be in the right area but attempting to make a methodical search of an area we might or might not be in when we couldn't see each other across a snake hole seemed not easy. Oh yes, and we'd walked off the map.

We decided to continue East, & found nowhere very interesting to search before we came to a cliff.

We decided to head round in a circle which might take us round or through the area. Presently we came to another large shake hole & debated the possibility that it could be the same one we'd been at before. It looked different, so we investigated. Unfortunately, Rob & I ended up exploring the opposite sides to those we'd looked at previously, so it was a few minutes before Rob announced that he was standing where we'd dumped our tub-sacks before. Yes, it was the same hole.

We headed off towards an area where I'd seen more shake holes, & found nothing. We were getting fed-up with our wild goose chase & decided to direct our exploration in a somewhat different direction!

Thus we came to an area which looked much more promising, & decided to dump sacks again. Very soon I found a shaft just where I was expecting to find one. It was marked 1E/4.

Description of 1E/4

5 meter free-climbable shaft. Leads to chamber on one side (invisible from surface) 6ft high. Another small inlet to chamber is blocked & runs on from chamber & opposite side of shaft blocked.

Then we continued East, Rob moving to the right & me to the left of a gully. I followed Rob's path and arrived at a shaft which transpired to

be the very one we had gone in search of! Rob descended 1st & second pitch, ran a way on & we rushed home as time was getting on.

²⁸
Description of 35/4 (Poza Labettra el verde) location

Head East from Poza Labettra el verde along a gully which rises up & then dips down again towards a shale-hole. Level with this shale hole ~~is~~ to the right of the gully is the entrance (hidden from view ~~is~~ from this approach.)

18/7/93 - Gavin & Harvey return to 28/4

I pushed myself up Labettra Cove as much faster than my legs can carry me and subsequently wobbled ~~ambled~~ along the ridge in Gavin's wake. We soon arrived at a shale-hole which, after I'd wandered further on to get my bearings, turned out to be the one before the one next to 35/4. This turned out to be next-door but 1 to the hole I'd visited twice yesterday.

We descended - the cave description follows. After an enjoyable trip down a most pleasant cave we completed our cross-country run to arrive back at Aho in good time for tea.

Description of 2814

Entrance shaft (P7, P19) drops into chamber. Climbs down through slot into large chamber (alternatively rig pitch further along). Inlet to right leads to moonmilk. Straight ahead leads to crawl through boulders, down to 4-way chamber junction (Wobbly Rock Junction)

To left is crawl leading to chamber. Climb over boulders to where rist narrows down: First left hand bend is passable to wider section, but this needs widening in order to turn over for next right hand bend.

~~To right from Wobbly Rock Junction~~

Straight ahead from Wobbly Rock Junction, tube descends to 3m drop into chamber, start of STE route. Rist to left closes down. Main route leads to 7m climb down to slot which is the top of the 3rd pitch (P8). From the bottom of the 3rd pitch, the 4th pitch follows immediately (P11). At the bottom the rist becomes too narrow, at least for me.

To the right from WRT, a crawl, with holes connecting down into STE route, leads into a slot/area of breakdown, with ending at a blockage with an enlargement - and a hole - visible beyond.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>First pitch (P7) }
 Second pitch (P19) }</p> | <p>40m rope {</p> | <p>Thread backup; Y-hang off 2 spikes
 Spike backup; bolt and spike Y-hang, needs deviation
 half way down</p> |
| <p>Other Climb (C9) }
 Third pitch (P8)
 Fourth pitch (P11) }</p> | <p>40m rope {</p> | <p>Spike below
 Y-hang from 2 bolts, spike deviation
 Bolt; bolt rebelow</p> |