chestharness (because she had fortunately decided not to remove her SRT kit). After doing this, and pointing out some footholds that were not obvious from the top, I left them to make up their own minds while I went to explore "Gas Street".

Gas Street is a tight and awkward blasted crawl, finishing at a blocked rift that marks the present limit of exploration in the cave. The air was quite bad — hyperventilating while sitting still, (↳ high CO_2...) sound of heartbeat in ears, 5~10 mins of limb weakness after exiting.
It wasn't so bad on the way in, which I think is most likely attributable to greater motivation on getting to the end of the cave. There is nothing to see — all the formations are covered in mud / destroyed during exploration — with the exception of some insignificant stal / curtains at the end. There's a liquid mud crawl and a fun face-first climb down a (short!) pot on the way in.
On getting back to the bottom of Rover pot, was very impressed to see Chi climbing down (Tom already down). I was very glad no one had followed me into Gas Street, because there were very few places to turn around, and reversing it wouldn't always be easy. No one else wanted to explore Gas Street so we turned around and exited the cave after Tom + the novices had a look at some digs.
All-in-all, a very enjoyable "Introduction to SRT" trip. Chi and Karim both proved to be fast learners, and competent. They also washed their gear very thoroughly.
We had severe transport issues getting home, and notably, we had to break Tom's seatbelt mechanism to get it to extend (not safe?)
↳ loss of leverdy things that should not be levered!
I was quite unhappy about this situation.

PEAK WEEKEND 16-18 NOV 2018

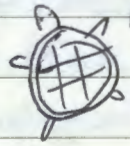
Rosa Clements, Nick Adams, Rory Rose, Reuben Harding, Thomas Leung, Greg Horvath & Clare Ballantyne, Nicole Aw Yuang, Will Horton, Mario Nakamura SIMONE?

Peak. Moss & Bug Stream.
Bill Yung Mario Nick Clare Rosa Ali

We did the trip described above, it was quite fun: muddy & crawly - I liked it.
Nick

As my first proper caving trip it was extremely enjoyable and fascinating. As a climber I had guessed it would take some sort of zen like mentality to overcome the insanity of crawling through the ground but I had not expected it to be so sustained over many hours. What kept me going was trust in the more experienced cavers who were total strangers until yesterday! With my life in their hands and in completely new environments I was extremely how free and alert my senses felt. Filtering out meaningful sound from echoes of running water, footsteps and scuffles whilst crawling. Or focusing entirely on weighting your body whilst climbing muddy, jagged rocks... Experiencing total darkness and seeing limestone formations, millions of years in the making which not many get to see. Moments of privileged thoughts and then transforming quickly to an animalistic instinct of "get to the other side" "don't get left Behind" whilst contorting your body through the earth. Muy Loco. TO REPEAT!

Thanks and look forward to learning more tomorrow!
Mario Nakamura



NICK TOLD ME THAT THERE WOULD BE A TURTLE FOSSIL. HE LIED. I WILL NEVER TRUST AGAIN.

nice caves tho.

(22)

Today

~~Never~~ have I ever : Crawled for hours through mud and rock... annihilated my knees on said rocks... Hit my head on a ladder... Smothered My face in mud... had a scrub down from nick... Submerged myself in freezing water... Questioned my life choices. All in all, no regrets.

17 NOV 2018 Gerg, Thomas, Reuben, Rory
JH → Block Hall → White river → Ventilator (Pull through) → JH

The original plan was to just go down JH, since I am the only one who done it before. A very enjoyable and relative short trip went downhill when Gerg, Reuben and Rory looking extremely [redacted] determined, requesting for a long and hard trip. So, intended to be only a joke, I came out with the master plan of going down JH → white river → JH [redacted]. While everyone were very keen, I was worried about the chest deep canal swimming before bung hole. Not ideal when soaking wet and cold, while continue the trip. Anyway, sticked to the master plan, rigged down JH just fine. Got to the canal, and thank god, the water level was extremely low !! It was such a big relief for me at that point. So carried on up Block hall, down ventilator, did the crawl, and back to the bottom. We did a short detour to see the "Source of Perfection" requested by Reuben on top of the ventilator shaft. Reuben and Rory then derigged JH while I took a tackle bag and went ahead. [redacted] when Reuben, Rory and I gathered at the bottom of the entrance shaft (Gerg was out), the two nutters felt like they hadn't done enough for the day, and thinking of going back straight down JH, and did a through trip out Peak Cavern! [redacted] I didn't say a word while they were discussing about how much water and food they got, and the route finding out Peak. Since they had only done Peak

once, they decided to go back to the hut first, read about the survey, had some food, and see how it goes. In the end, they decided to do a ~~[illegible]~~ titan → Peak through trip, and disappeared in the darkness again with gears and ropes before mid night .....

Reuben: + Rory

The J.H. round trip was pleasant, but, ~~as Thomas alludes to~~ as is alluded to by Thomas, it felt like we'd only really started caving. The possibility of re-rigging JH and doing a Peak cavern through trip was seriously discussed. However, a lack of food and uncertainty re: routefinding stymied this plan. Therefore, we went back to TSG, to eat (hot) food, ~~and~~ replenish chocolate, and revise our knowledge of peak cavern.

Sadly, Jaff made Thomas' departure time quoted above rather optimistic. We left at about 0045. Into Titan at about 0130. Alistair Gott had informed us that there were some in situ ropes, but fortunately we had packed our own (significant ropewear!). For reasons that are complicated to explain (or not — mistaken rigging) we decided to use the in-situ rope anyway for Event Horizon — floor. Getting onto it wasn't great, and it was incredibly heavy (trying to push my descender through the braking crab) and slow. Other than that, we had no problems and got out a 0500 for an ~~effective~~ efficient and reasonably rapid trip → though I'm sure Rory would prefer to have gone faster through Colostom Crawl

Having been awake for 24 hours, and caving for a bit more than half that, I'm very sleepy and I'm not sure how much sense this trip report will make in the cold ~~the~~ light of day. (Probably also many spelling and grammar mistakes)

A good day's worth of caving. Now we just have to derig Titan.

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18 Nov 2018 Titan De-rig (Reuben, Rory, Mario)

So this whole trip for Will and me was inspired by a Youtube video of two cavers descending through Titan, filmed on a ~~Go~~ Go-Pro. Never had I imagined that my second caving trip and first real SRT trip would be in Titan!

The previous night after hearing about the possibility of joining the de-rig, I furiously went about practicing SRT indoors on a 3m ish rope. Prior Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance. However I knew from experience that the real deal is always harder, the environment always throws unexpected and inexperienced problems at you. Today turned out as such but not enough that I ~~returned~~ did not return※! The specifics of learning how to efficiently use your gear on a long wet rope will come to any caver that does SRT so I will skip listing my experience of that here. Just a lot different to a 3m one!

※ Thanks also to Reuben, stopping me descending, ~~not~~ just in time, on a damaged rope which I had not noticed!

Any way I'm writing this on the drive back and its making me slightly nauseous so I will end by describing my best experience from Titan. While Reuben was ascending from the Event Horizon and Rory had finished de-rigging the 3rd pitch, we both turned off our headtorches to watch Reuben up in the distance. Swinging and circling on the overhanging rope, the beam of light from his headtorch lit the cathedral like space randomly but gracefully, slowly getting higher and higher. This made me very aware of the enormity of Titan. (Also Rory's singing echoing in the darkness...)

楽しかった!

Mario Nakamura

18th November Giant's Hole (Rosa, Clare, Nicole, Will)

Kindly assisted by Greg, as Nick was too hungover/drunk/lazy to take us, we were dropped off on some mud and kitted up. The usual disagreements about Rosa's chest harness style ensued but it wasn't long until we were underground, in what seemed like a sub-terranian daycare as it was full of children.

Once the youths had been dispatched, Rosa helped the three newbies on their first in field SRT descent. After we finished patting each other on the back, we began to squeeze down the narrow passageways, with the sleader Rosa and Nicole racing ahead, leaving the slightly thicker-framed me struggling to scrape my fat torso through seemingly endless corridors.

Hope was in sight though as we would soon climb into the upper passage with the promise of more Will-sized pathways. Doubts began to grow, however, as the entrance wasn't quite where our leader remembered it to be, and a few dead ends later we resolved to go back exactly the way we had come.

I considered if waiting to die might be slightly easier for me, but somehow found some energy to carry on living. Thankfully, after an appreciable amount of grunting, my prayers were answered when we decided to climb upwards and traverse the canyon from above. While squeezing through small spaces is not a strength of mine to say the least, climbing fills me with joy and I was happy to be moving vertically again.

Sometimes the unplanned mishaps give you the best memories, and our discovery of some wonderful calcium formations in a hidden space above the canyon, now known as Rosa's creamy Carotto, made the whole getting lost into an adventure I won't forget. Will

(27)

CHECC Peak District 23-25 Nov

Rosa Clements, Rory Rose, Amelia Speare, Karim Alaska
Simon Goddard, Fiona Barker, Will Ivison

Quite the caving debut for me in the devil's arsehole. There were muddy bits, crawly bits and only a mild to moderately stressful interaction with the eyehole. I didn't wuss out first. The mud sliding was a lot of fun. Rory absolutely stacked it into a pool of water on a completely unnecessary traverse. Thoroughly enjoyed.

Amelia.

Nick & Becca's LUXURY HOLIDAY!

AKA

Tales from SWCC

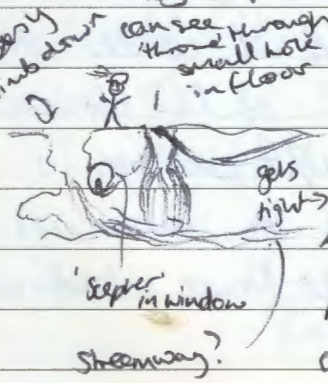
13-17/12/2018

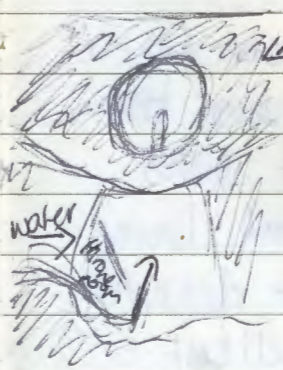
The plan:
- Friday: OFD2 tour & route finding/survey reading training
- Saturday: Joined by Amy & Fiona for OFD2/cwm Dwr trip
- Sunday: More OFD on Gower
- Monday: More OFD or waterfall walk.

& What actually happened...

NIGHT ONE: DRANK lots of cider & played games by the roaring fire. Missed a big meteor shower

DAY ONE: Route finding training, no surveys. Taught Becca the main tourist routes & explored sections near Mr Octopus, interesting space. Oh! we also explored some tributaries to cross cliff! awesome. Learnt the route to Trident/Judge then a bit further to Shatter pillar, as we were taking it slow was a good opportunity to appreciate the ceiling formations in Cross Rift & do some exploring on the way back! Found a lovely stal + mud formation (throne + sceptre) [8630/8640: 1560/1570] just off the Cross Roads.





Found a pitch off cross rift - climbs up 2m + could finish? - will be going back with rope! (+ Hangers!!)

Feeling a lot happier now I can get myself in/out + be a bit more independant/helpful. Good trip! +

P.S - v. cold outside, running down hill helps! ☃

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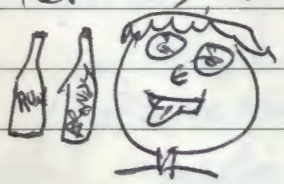
NIGHT TWO: Fiona's a no-show. Becca won Risk, we are finishing the cider (~50ml left :) but loads of rum & Brandy!!



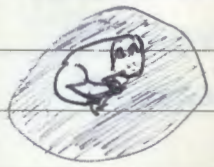
DAY TWO: Amy turned up around 10:20, we had some pancakes for breakfast & were underground about 11:20 – 4pm. OFD II → Arete → Timos & chasm → Judge & trident → Shattered Pillar + offshoots → Selenite → Entrance to Northern Lights (gour pools) → Back out. Nice to have a long distance novice trip, & Amy enjoyed the formations. Also, Becca's navigation was really good!

Led Amy & Nick to bottom of corkscrew & Nick took us to Arête chamber & Timo's table – really nice to see a new part of OFD2.
Once back at corkscrew I managed to lead to Trident & Judge then to Shatter Pillar. Stopped off at water spot just beyond shatter pillar & had an explore of the offshoots there. Visited the gower pools by midnight passage + managed to lead back. Very happy to know my main way in/out – also very happy to have introduced my best friend to caving!!

Today was my first day caving and I can say I will definitely be going again! I didn't have any idea where I was going but it was so much fun and lots of beautiful things to see! The only thing is I will most definetely not be able to move tomorrow.. Excellent Exercise

Amy :)

NIGHT THREE : Toad in the hole for dinner! Lots more cider & cards against Humanity, BIG FIRE!!



DAY THREE : Sleepy!! Amy's gone off to lunch, we're trying to find something "low impact" to do today...
... We went for a walk & reasoned that we could reach Pen-y-cae, but it started to rain, and we realised that the return journey is steep!
Becca is sorting out the fire, at 1:10 pm, TSK!!
Drinking hot chocolate with brandy!!

Nick + Becca NY 2018.
We stayed at the shepton in Mendip, and Nick caught the flu:
- Saturday - set up at hut & drink
- Sunday - Nick gets day long fever (+ hangover)
- Monday (NY eve) - Nick walks for 1 hour (with Becca) and is very, very ill
- Tuesday (NY day) Nick feels better & takes Becca on her first Swildon's sump 1 trip, carrying the bag far too much underground
- Becca was too scared to go through the sump...

— Slanderous lies!