

LOGBOOK

Year: 1996

Season: Christmas : New Year

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Juan Corrin, January 2015

XMAS 1996

22/12/96 Sunday

Pete and Juan christened Pete's new car with
cave mud by poking about in Loca II. (20) Extended cave
through a crack into small chamber at D10 on 75 survey.

Up! the roof at Xsection 1 a flat out crawl needs pushing
to a drop. (Could return to streamway).

Looked at ?? at F8. Drops down to small streamway
on N side. - Choked. South side has a climb up to choked passage
heading back to main cave.

Climbed up just beyond Xsection 1 into high level
passage. Attached choke at ? and slid up and over
to a choked rift on other side.

Went to Agua to check a Andy Q's detector. Found
it out of water (after floods a fortnight ago). Put it back
in water.

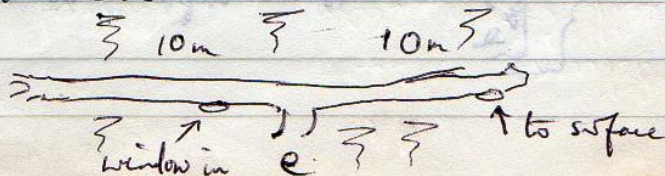
Then to side passage on right of main chamber to
look at bone/breccia deposits. Very extensive. Found hole
through into extension, about 20m long - need a proper
look at.

Perry and Jennifer walking near Orillan found a
new cave entrance - needs exploring. (1221)

24/12/96 Tuesday

above Orillan

Returned to 1221 - 20m of hard and knees
phreatic tube parallel to hill slope, passing under hibernating bat.
Choked at both ends



26/12/96 Rupert Phil. Bottles left in Motus.
Water v. high.

27/12/96 Rupert & Julie. Bottles still left. Water too high.
Pete & Terry, Joan survey Motus.

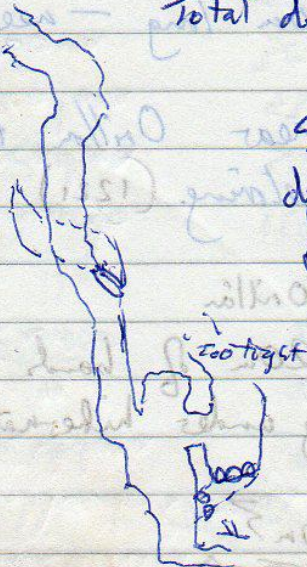
28/12/96 Phil P, Terry W & Andy P

1018
Returned to Preying Mantis (sites). Phil agreed with Andy that highest draughting hole was well worth a dig. (1 or 2 days in the summer with a rope butt & maybe Hilti caps) Terry was not so impressed & went to look for other sites. He "found" draughting entrance/shaft nearby. See 29/12/96 (366) write up. Preying Mantis area - particularly highest draughting hole is a prime site for '07.

Left the area & went to dig out. Cleared many tree trunks from Coravua entrance. This now done & intend to trip this Xmas. Andy P.

29/12/96 Remarkably early start by Andy Phil Joan & Terry dampened by the discovery that the 'unexplored shaft' near the 415 bend was probably 'Torca JR' (366). Shaft laddered to -20m consisted of a wide rift pitch with several landings to a flat stoney floor. A narrow rift goes off. The draught can be heard roaring in it about 5m away. Sideways flat out traversing by a dwarf may lead to progress. Total depth about 20m.

Section
on 0°-180°



Shaft 707 by the gate was descended by a 5m ladder to a chamber full of dead animals a descending passage over more dead beasts led to a small culminated chamber no draught no possibilities. Total depth about 9m length 12m.

27/12/96 — Phil to write up 250ish m. ⁽³⁾
the point of the pulling.

30/12/96 Cereva Molenio

Phil, Rupert + Julie.

Water levels dropped again — about 1 1/2 m above normal, so Rupert decided to have a dive.

Using 2 x 9 l tanks + drysuit, a new line was laid next to the old, thin (? French) line, and tied to this with cable ties.

In 5-6 m vis, the point reached in summer was soon passed. Shortly after, the end of the line was met at 70 m from base, — 28 m. A last tie was added, then virgin sump, descending down the gravel slope in a big (10 m x 5 m) half-tube, the depth steadily increasing until — 40-3 m was reached at a convenient place. Belaying the line here, margins were not quite reached, but the tube continued downwards, so it was decided to return + survey, whilst tidying up the line. The 1st stop was reached at -3 m after 30', 4 mins spent here and then surface, after 37 mins dive time.

The next dive will require bigger bottles and some more back up for decompression, but this is the ideal site for deep dives, and could turn out to be the "mother of all sumps" in the region. Watch this space.

31/12/96.

Rupert, Julie, Pete and Juan into Molenio with large bottles ready for R's dive tomorrow. Pete and Juan surveyed bits above the sumps and the large chamber above the rope climb. A couple of photos taken.

30/12 Terry & Andy walking round the Northern End
of Enaso around 415 area checking locations

31/12 Phil, Andy & Terry. In to Caravento through the bypass to
to Boy's Entrance to chase the Dagan & Rhinoceros Passage. Then on to
the start of Strangle Winking Passage. Here about 150m of heading
passage was surveyed (Heading west) Named it the Snow Queen's
Fantasy. The passage encounters a small inlet stream at
low level and a very minor spout inlet where surveying
stopped. Some traversing is involved.

My first ever trip into Caravento. Think the boys entrance might
be more of a change from Mendip caving!! However Snow
Queen Fantasy made it worth while. 8m wide 10-12m high
tapered round because of time on new gear etc at
waterfall entering from the right. Still going showing no
sign of changing character.

1st Jan 1997.

Rupert, Phil, Terry, Andy, Julie to Moline to drive
and canyon with survey.

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT