

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 1999

Season: Easter

Logbook pages scanned to jpg then combined into a pdf file using <http://smallpdf.com/>

Juan Corrin, January 2015

EASTER 99

(1)

28/3/99 Phil, Steve O, Jim, Pete S, Juan, Candy, Penny, Jerry
+ Carolina

Drove up last track on left before F.L.V. to farm house and beyond to park. Walked up to Catoran los Ulanos and around to Pe hole looked at at Christmas. Steve & Candy got their new Discovery muddy. lookoo.

Phil descended 275.-

Juan descended 276 - 4m climb down to top of narrow 6m pitch. A further 2m climb down reveals a bounding v. narrow rift which may dig.

Steve descended 136 (?) - still going
Pete down 1360 - 13m into rubble - many tetrapaks - small left of passage.
All 5 down 1360 - 6m ladder climb into roomy base with overhang. A slope up to right leads to a choked hole.

Walking back along track revealed 1362 - 5m climb down in small shaft to an excavated head of downward continuation. Jim hammered out and Pete descended to end of ladders with (3) with 30-40ft still to go.

1363 . 30ft high. Round and flat ^{checked} ~~littered~~. Pointless.

1364 Tight Right (Body size) pitch to choked floor 8m. No go. Jim Davis.

29/3

Steve | Phil | Jim | Terry | Hilary | Candy.

1297 Lhuera

Returned to divans area of remergences 100m to east of lam on newly
ingrained loam parallel to road in Llana. In October this area was like a mire
with the dig itself levitating boulders. Dig tent approached from right and is now
a descending elliptical hole about 4 feet deep. Unfortunately the boulders
ran out and considerable effort was expended in churning the soil faces
on east side of the hole. Looks a small drought and the shape of the
dig surrounds suggests "resurgence" of some considerable significance.
Needs heavy / Hilti caps for more efficient horizontal extension in the direction
of Muela.

SOME THING FOR A SUMMER DIG!!!

ITS 30" from the car.

30/3 Steve | Phil | Jim | Terry.

looked at hole visible from Vega bar next to tree just
above valley floor (8m) on south side. 4fralove used
as water supply. No go.

30/3 Steve | Phil | Jim | Lank. MMTV cave. Lank announced
that this was a cave for small people! Entrance was
buried in tree cut logs as they had just planted
Eucalyptus. A tight rift passage meant that Jim was
dispatched to see this canyon with a pitch to a grand
streamway (Lank's description!). The passage meandered
for 20m to a bedding at 20° to the head of a pitch.
A climb ~~to~~ on the right hand side meant the ladder,
which had been left behind anyhow, wasn't necessary.
A further climb down the pitch reached the bottom
and after 3m the rift passage closed down to
unpassable before a left hand turn. Stones thrown
landed on the floor - so no pitch immediately. However,
good draft.

Prospect only for small people with Hilti caps maybe

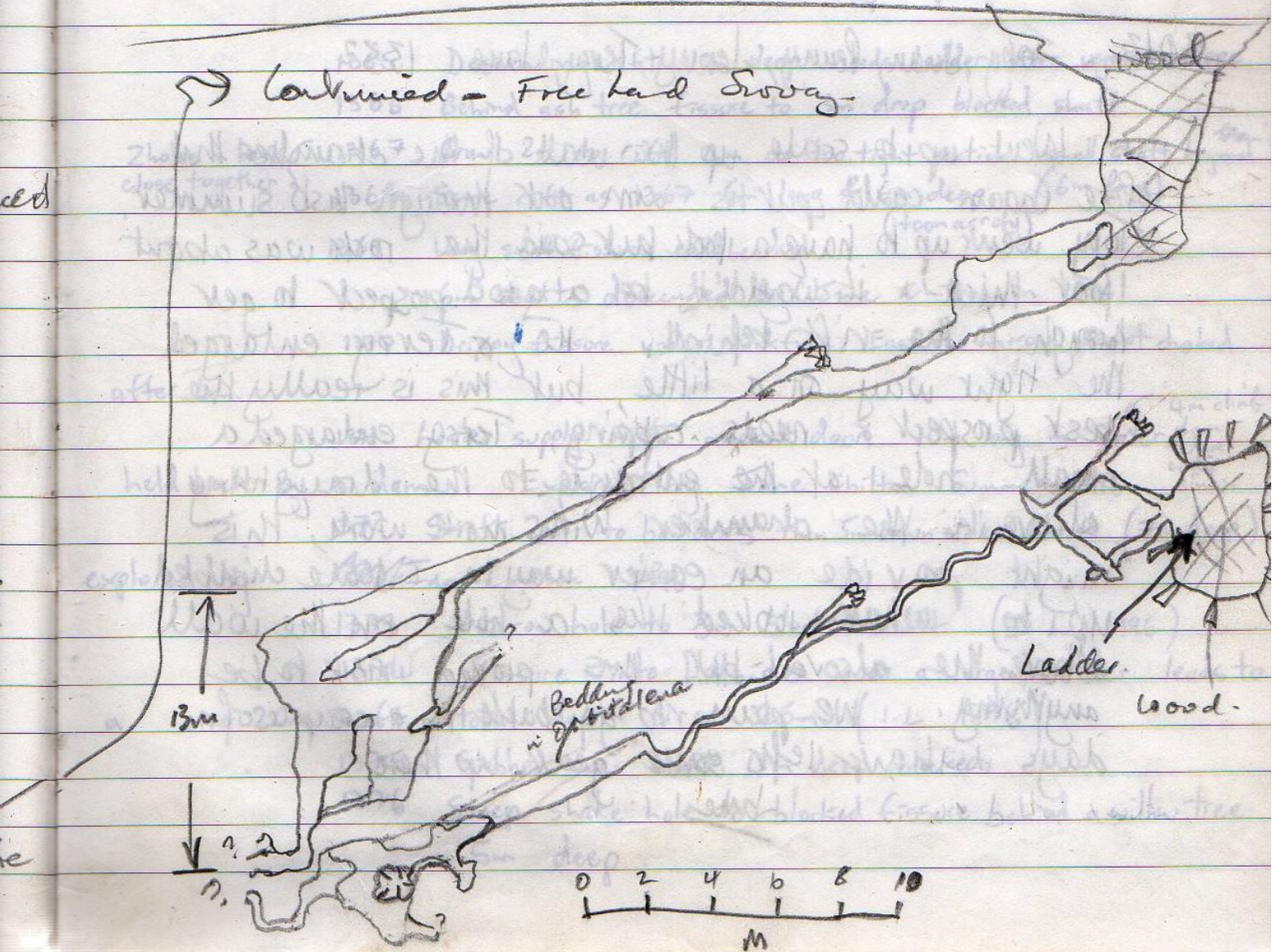
1318

3



La Blanca side of
 La Gatona
 Area first visited in
 96 but does last

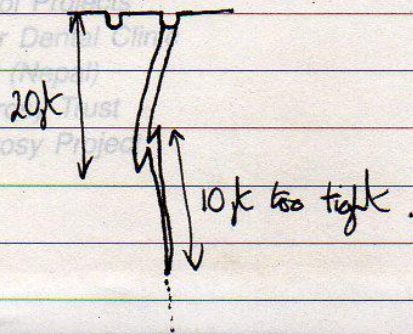
Continued - Free Land Survey



30/3 Steve / Phil / Hank / Tim Continued.

1318

Biano trail app chert. Newly opened road heads up towards
eucalyptus plantation. Approx 1/4 mile is a rough cart track on the
right. About 150m up this track a small hole under a ladder
was excavated to allow entry. Entry draught. Tight ~~at~~ entrance
~~space~~ squeeze drops to ~~20~~ 20 feet where a ledge stops progress.
Right steps over ledge and descends a further 10 feet + and is too
light. Photos taken of entrance.



30/3. Toby, Juan, Penny, Jenny, Terry, Jane 1332

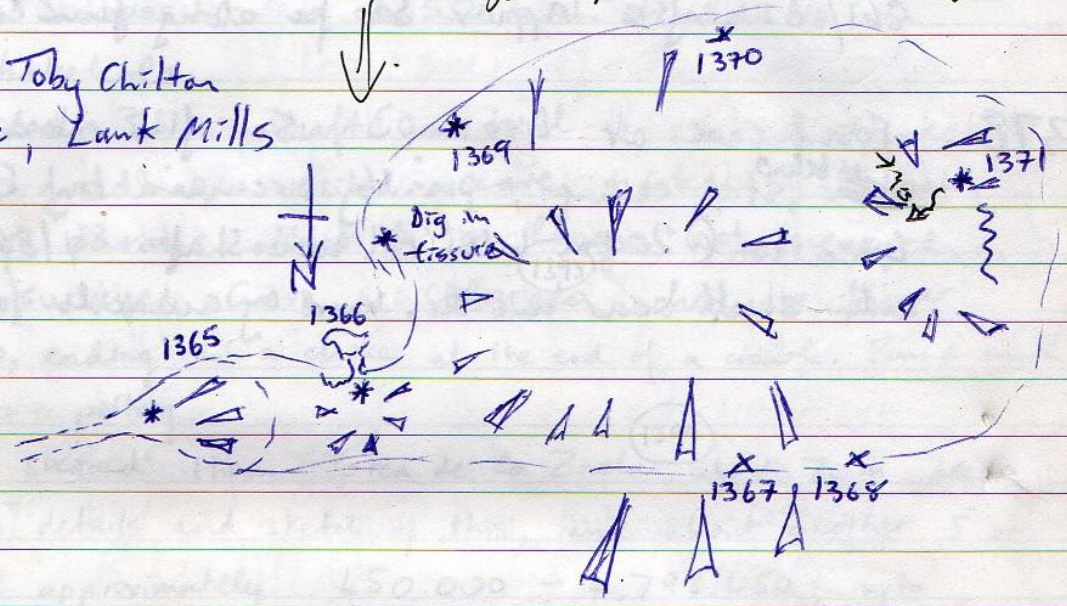
Went up to scale up the wall of the chamber that
Pete Fagan could put his arm out through last summer.
Toby went up to have a look but said the rock was about
1 foot thick & it wouldn't be a good prospect to get
through to the rift behind. He & Terry enlarged
the tight way on a little, but this is really the
best prospect & needs capping. Terry enlarged a
small hole at the entrance to the draughting
alcove in the chamber. With more work, this
might provide an easier way in. Jane climbed
up to what looked like a hole on the wall
above the alcove but this proved not to be
anything. We plan to go back in a couple of
days & have left some gear up there.

done

Friday 2nd Oct 1996 ^{relocated}
31/3 Janet King to site 600 and lots of other holes which were discovered and explored in 1996 and will be documented tomorrow. Walls suggest previous occupation of area.

1/4 Jane Chilton, Toby Chilton
Terry Whitake, Lank Mills

La Llania side of
La Gatuna.
Area first visited in
96 but docs lost?



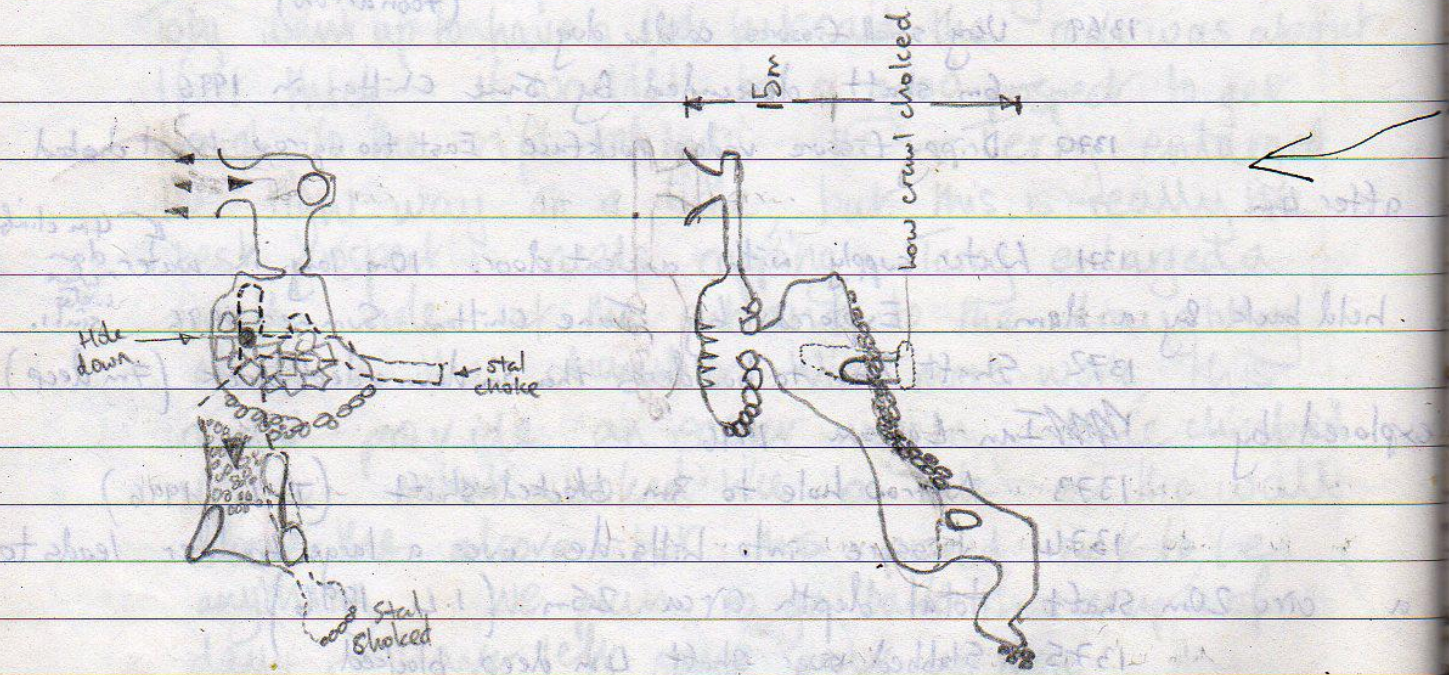
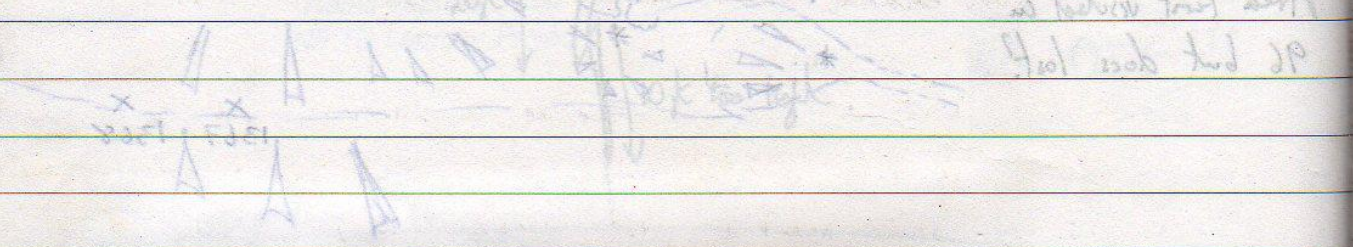
- 1365 Descending rift 10m deep needs ladder offer vegetated slope
- 1366 Behind ash tree fissure to 3m drop blocked shaft
- 1367 Crawl 2m to rift 4m to too tight section small shaft beyond
- 1368 Same rift as 1367 6m long & 6m deep (6m long) (too narrow)
- 1369 Very small fissures could be dug
6m shaft descended by Jane Chilton in 1996
- 1370 Drippy fissure under rockface East too narrow West choked

after 4m.

- 1371 Water supply with ancient door, 10m long in water, ^{4m climb} held back by a dam. Explored by Jane Chilton Summer 1996 ^{dam where water sinks.}
- 1372 Shaft 2m to boulders then 5m down side of block (7m deep) explored by ~~Jan~~ Ian Lawson 1996
- 1373 Narrow hole to 3m blocked shaft (I.L. 1996)
- 1374 Fissure into hillside over a large boulder leads to a circ 20m shaft total depth circa 25m (I.L. 1996)
- 1375 Slabbed over shaft 4m deep blocked
- 1376 Steep shake hole to blocked fissure behind a willow tree 5m deep.

1/4. Tim. Hole banking to east of Tres Vuos.
 1377 1 Shaft at 295m OD. 5m tight climb to choke.
 Location 30m below new track from Curva farmhouse to
 corner of valley running from Casareucusa up to col with
 861/862 shafts. Approx 500m along from Curva.

1378. Fossil cave at 400m OD. 5m flab out crawl over and
~~at~~ ^{below} stal ceiling. probably occupied by Badgers.
 Location @ 200m below col with shafts 861/862 in trees
 with small scar inside. Used by animals for shade.



Friday 2nd April - Big team of Catalans and Pete S.
Above Vallina

Corrected GPS position of 1350 - it should be in bottom of shakehole.

They descended 35m shaft on hill to east of shakehole.

At top of field we visited a cave marked by French, a meandering passage about 50m long - not surveyed.

Then we surveyed Cueva de Colorado (1393), where the farmer keeps his sheep, ending in a choke at the end of a crawl. Found small piece of prehistoric pottery.

Farmer then showed them Torca de la Zuela (1394), about 70m deep. Catalans have details and sketch of this, and about another 5 or 6 shafts at approximately 450.000 - 4.793.450, up to 60m deep. But all choked, or got unpromisingly tight.

Sat 3rd April Ian L, Sarah L, Dave G
Cue to

1008 Had to go back to see where the canal at the bottom went - about 15ft to complete choke!! Other lead went over small 'col' to another choke.

1008 Slightly below/just above the trees, maybe 25m away was small hole in ground, draughted slightly you could see down approx 5-6ft.

Above 1008 in small cliff on skyline (1395) is line of overhang with a bedding plane behind, shrubs at base. Crawling in for approximately 3m led to a choked passage. No draft

On returning along base of cliffs one of caves
271 - 274 ~~was~~ was draughting strongly, it
was the only one that the back of was not
visible from entrance, we did not enter it.
~~Drafting~~ Draft was cold.

Friday 3rd April

Q. When is a drill not a drill?

A. When Toby & Jane leave the cable on the campsite!

Went up to 133Z to cap the squeeze. I prefer the jerry
to the above! Having left everything at the site,
we went for a walk round to the valley below
Azpilicueta & looked at lots of entrances, some marked &
some not marked on the way down the hill. Very pleasant
day.

Sat 3rd April, Toby, Jane, Pete Smith 133Z

Actually had all the technology & capped out
the hole above the original squeeze. Nearly big enough
to get into now. Ran out of battery power.

2nd April

Steve O, Phil P, Jim D and Terry

Cacavero - trip to ① remember the way ② push straw passage ③ have a jolly
good look around.

dug out entrance which was actually surprisingly easy. Talked about
putting a grill over the ent. right but as in all good ideas never did.
Party dropped to stream level where a long crawl over which right it was
to get up to high level was successful. Easy navigation to straw passage
apart from the occasional groan in the crawl over the ladder pit.

Two ways on at the end of straw passage were re-examined and
the original descriptions were found to be true - didn't go.

Tried to find way through to Elena corridor. This led to some contention since most of the party were pretty rusty in this area. Time later spent sending Terry into ladder chutes having convinced mainly that was the way

Jim: "Terry is that the way?"

Terry: "Yes this is definitely the way"

Jim: "That come back Terry's found the way"

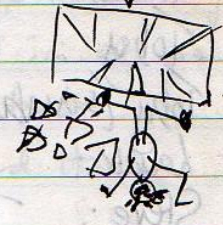
Terry: "Hmm, grunt. ~~Yes~~ Well I'm pretty certain this is the way. Actually, I'm not sure but I vaguely remember going through this window."

I remember this. I've been through this window before!

Rustle, Rumble, Cank

Terry: No. This isn't the way after all.

Jim / Steve / Phil: "Collective sigh"



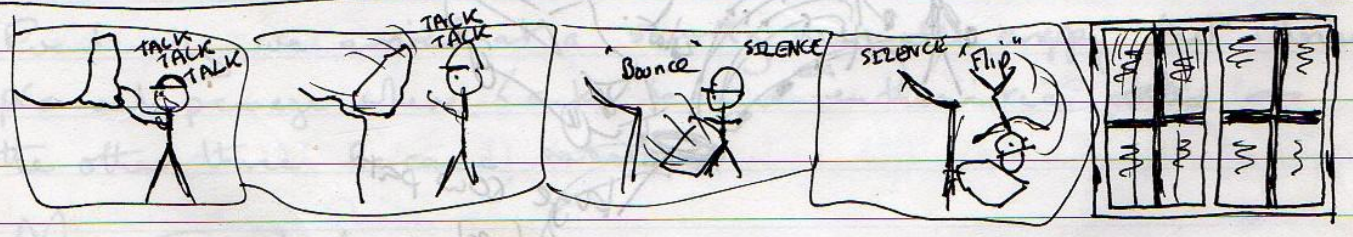
{CRASH}. RUMBLE.

All: "Temeeee"

T: I'm ~~ok~~ ok. Its just that a 1m² slab has bounced off my leg and then I headbitted it.

QUOTE: Jane says that Steve's contributions are not always clear!

BOLLOCKS!



CONT

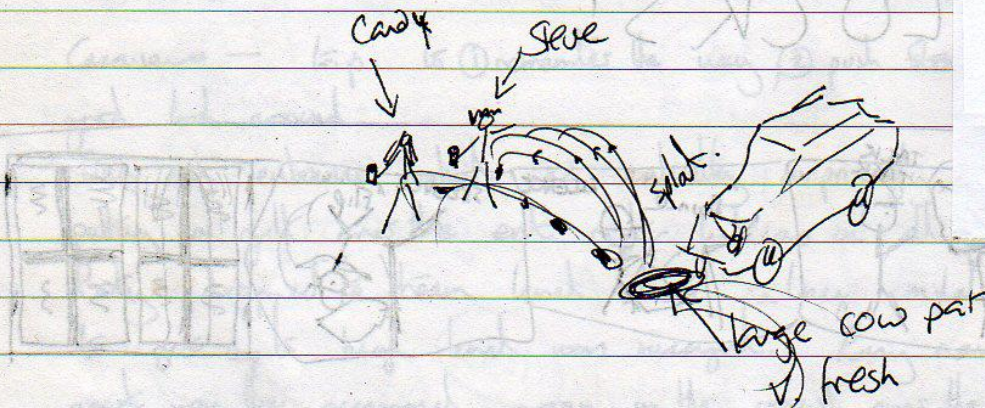
On way out surveyed 263m up climb near junction of stair passage off-low. "Tunnelers Series". Consists of sand fleeced ryls which to the W

conect with main drag near entrance to straw passage. Other junctions to the East conect with unmerged passage just to E of pudding passage. Trotter like a motorway but not merged. Something you names.

Matienzo top ten TV programmes:

- Everyone: Casualty.
- Terry: Big Break.
- Phil: ~~South Park~~ South Park.
- Toby: Where's my line?
- Toby (sunburnt): Red Dwarf.
- Lank: Can't Cave, Won't Cave
- Steve: The Thirds Man.
- Lank: Peak Dental Practice.

Another pleasant drink at the Vega Bar
or "Oh Shit"



31/3/99

(11)

Rairol - Lank, Cauchy, Jane & Jui

Guaranteed glory* "Blocks the size of houses" was what Mr. Mills said. "No messing about in small passages"

First we found that the entrance to Rairol was blocked by mud so we had to excavate to create a body sized tube which would fill up with water if it rained.

Lank started off with an instructive guide into Rairol, but after various key passage junctions, the rest were fairly clueless as to the way out.

Eventually we found ourselves at the start of the house blocks. The echo was fantastic and we all rushed about with glory fever..... but - - - - -

- - - we found one survey station and then - - - another - another.

WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED? (Name says passage)

and the survey stations said 29th July 1986 and there seemed to be initials rather like L.M.

There followed some silence whereupon Lank said he had another place where passages hadn't been properly looked at. Every passage that Jui saw and said "Where does that go?" was met with the reply "I've got something better, we'll come back to that later".

Eventually, we arrived at a scrotty miserable craggy (but otherwise pleasant passage where Lank became enthusiastic ~~as~~ as the other three became rebellious.

MUTINY - - - but with care. Lank was the only one who knew the way out!!

* All glory is susceptible to rise & fall, and is dependent on the reliability of limestone. Independent speleological advisors can only provide advice on their own halucigenic hypotheses. Always read the small print before embarking on such trips.

2 ICOTONES /

(11)

All we remembered on the way out were the Cab's Paids and the Radio equivalent of Kenada's pipe cleaners being sold as a dead cert and rejected in favour of a ladder & lifeline.

With relief we arrived at Fuente las Varas for a Camp.

We then read the '86 Logbook*

* we strongly advise that due attention to the aforementioned bullshit. No liability can be accepted for any part despite payment of large commissions.

Antenna by Eleven, dead by ~~eleven~~ seven. Why? See 1332.

3rd April 1999. Phil | Steve | Candy | Tim | Hilary. (Next page)

ODE to The SNOWS.

Gone are the days when you could write like this :

Where are the days when we longed for something cooler?

Where are the days of yore?

Where are the days when Roy wanted you, boy?

Not lost, but gone before.

MNTM

3/4/99

Jim / Steve / Candy + Phil / Mary.

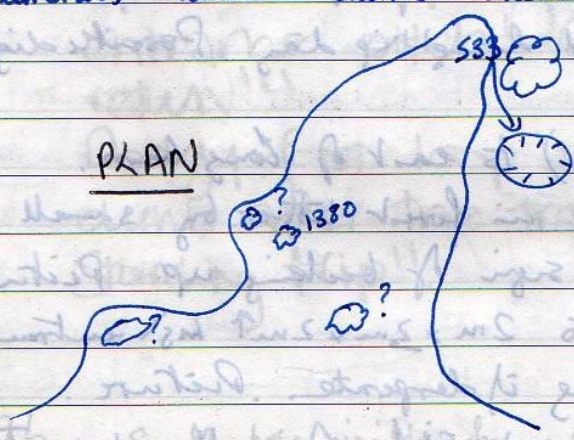
Cabana above 415. Grid square ~~920~~ 5150 9750 / 5100 9800

1379: Path at barn and yellow track around and aim to contours to 147.

150m ledge, a small bluff is encountered. Entrance is to the South of the bluff and is covered with white jetties logs. Good draught and descends to right with boulders. Good prospects. Worth going back with casing gear!

1380: In gully which looks "odd". Small valley is a dancie dry valley with numerous boulder "cairns" which presumably cover other holes. Below 533.

PLAN



Another good draught hole when boulders removed. Blast space of small dimensions see below. A nice digging project.

1381: In steep sided valley which crosses the land and is just below it. (10m)

Tree in exposed cliff has a thin tunnel gas hole in it. No drums came but site looks to have possibilities should anyone get really desperate.

4/4/99 Phil P / Jim D. S. Vega above Azpiliceta

1382: Small body sized hole at base of 3m cliff. NOT PROMISING.

NO DETECTABLE DRAFT ON GOOD DRAUGHTING DAY.

1383: Small hands - knees crawl into 5m stalled chamber. 2x3m and was low wall across entrance. No detectable draught on good draughting day. Picture.

1384: In wood. Depression not shown on map. 2 small holes on N side of depression by cliff. No draught. Possible dig. Picture.

1385: OBVIOUS FENCED shaft to W side of ruined cabana. Undescended, but appears 10m deep through sandstone band. Drain 2x3m. Trees for belay. Picture.

1386. By S. corner of wall ~~to~~ above ruined barn below intact long barn. Two sandstone boulders cover draughting dig. Picture.

1387 Sharp ~~cut~~ miniature hole with seven post fence. Draughts very well. ~~with~~ Picture. Take hammer.

1388. 2m deep shake hole with 5 posts, ~~with~~ bottles in. Echo, but from where? Dig. Picture

1389. Hole above 1388. Fenced shaft - small 8 post fence - 3m to boulder choker. Stones drop further 3m down creek slight inward draught a good draughting day. Possible dig if desperate.

1390. In large wood (50x50m) to east of long barn.

2 streams unite & sink in forest litter by small ~~east face~~ limestone face. No sign of backing up. Picture.

1391. Small stooping entrance to 2m x 3m x 2m high entrance. ~~wood~~. No draught. Possible dig if desperate. Picture.

1392. Small undercut beneath west side of valley above TV mark. 15m above 1346. Picture. Stones roll down below. ~~E~~. Needs revisiting.

1393. Julie. Good prospect. Could go anywhere. Ice cream a speciality. Not averse to leather trousers, Pictures as well. 1393@ezueka.com.

1393 = Cuara Colorado.

4/4/99

IAN L / DAVE G / SARAH L / ABBY P

(7) Great trip, were hoping to do some exploring but found nothing new to survey, tomorrow for sure!

Only one thing lost, Dave gets the who left their brain down the cave and for a slight spanned dropping incident whilst derigging the entrance pitch! Could the next person down return!!!

Dodgy foot loop left as handline for short climb after the traverse but before first out crawl. Spinning trip!!

1396. Small hole inside from road beyond Jega bar. ~~1m~~ 1m deep shelter for water supply. Tim Davis. No Drought.

1296 ↓
~~1397~~ Pitch near 1396. (See card)

5/4/99

Steve O, Phil P, Candy, Hilary & Jim D

Steve Diving Comedianke. After mentioning the vis all med and noting a considerable clearing Steve decided to pop in. Tied off line to boulder in centre of streamway. Vis in upper 2.5m good but below was approx 6". Tied off to old line at 10m depth and jolted for 40 feet with no improvement. Since the idea was to have a good look in the rock and walls up to 140m the dive was aborted. Noted sound of running water. 30 feet in but could not locate in poor vis. Went shopping instead.

Jim found a small hole about 30m above the tree bridge crossing near Comedianke, but didn't have time to locate it precisely or explore it.

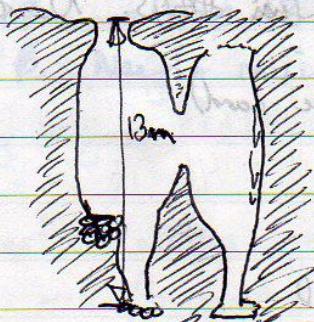
5/4/98 Ian L, Dave G, Sarah L, Abi P.

Shaft bashing on ~~Mesa~~ Muela.

Walked towards Wild Horses, found site A on map, small hole in grass, not obvious - maybe 4-5ft deep, unexplored. no draft.

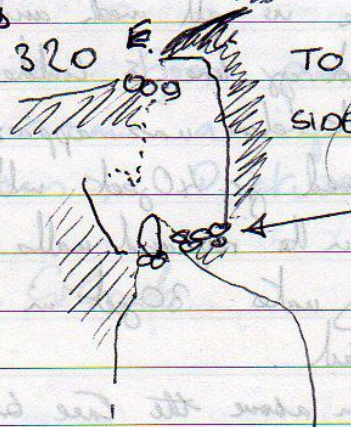
(13987) Closer to wild Horses on flat below a piece of wood jammed in chink is a cave now marked by a cairn. men sized hole leads to floor maybe 4m below, tight-ventilated due to lack of bidder - expatriots wish to call this cave Jubilado Hexagonal (Hexagonal Pensioner!!) - ONLY UNTIL WE FIND A BETTER CAVE TO WHICH MERITS SUCH A FINE NAME!

Could not find sites 174 & 175 anywhere so went to look for site 320. (13988) In some shale hole, we found site C, a 13m deep shaft to cholee at base in slot with well gdecorated parallel shaft through window choleing at same depth with calcite.



Site C - CAMEL CAVE (QUITE OBVIOUSLY DUE TO IT'S FORM)
(Also, Abby carried all our water up the hill!!)
HENCE I'M A CAMEL-MADEHA.

Dodgy bolt (unusable!)



TO FIND THIS CAVE, STAND THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SNAKE HOLE + IT'S OBVIOUS!

one bolt placed at head of pitch, take a lump hammer + chisel.

3-4s drop

Ian L,

¿DÓNDE ESTÁ NUESTRA
NOTA PARA ESTE
INFORME MAGNIFICO?

Terry - you can't have anything bigger 'cos you lolls
with deer. It's a function of pi.

6/4/99

Juan Penny + Jenny into 207 - fuente de la Cueva
eighteen years after photos taken by Juan + Penny -
(not Jenny). Juan + Jenny found the cave straight
forward, but Penny found it ~~very~~ had shrunk.
Passages have got tighter. Took photos of nice stal
and came out.

Also trip down memory lane to Secadura
resurgence which has changed from
muddy cow track leading to jungle bank
to paved path to landscaped pumping
station. However the bar is still the same.

10/10
CPIENSAS?

6/4/99

Sarah L, Abby P, Dave G, bn L into Reñada, nice twist
trip down to the ghost lake, lots of chocolate
consumed, more would have prevented the birds
whinging! Damn carbide.

Choose light, choose a carbide, choose to
whinge about it, choose to spend half the
trip in the dark, choose bad mascara, choose
poxy french generators, choose moaning, choose
to flood it half way through the trip, choose
something else, choose electric.

3/10

Little information. No new stuff.

Sarah L.

KABRÓN!

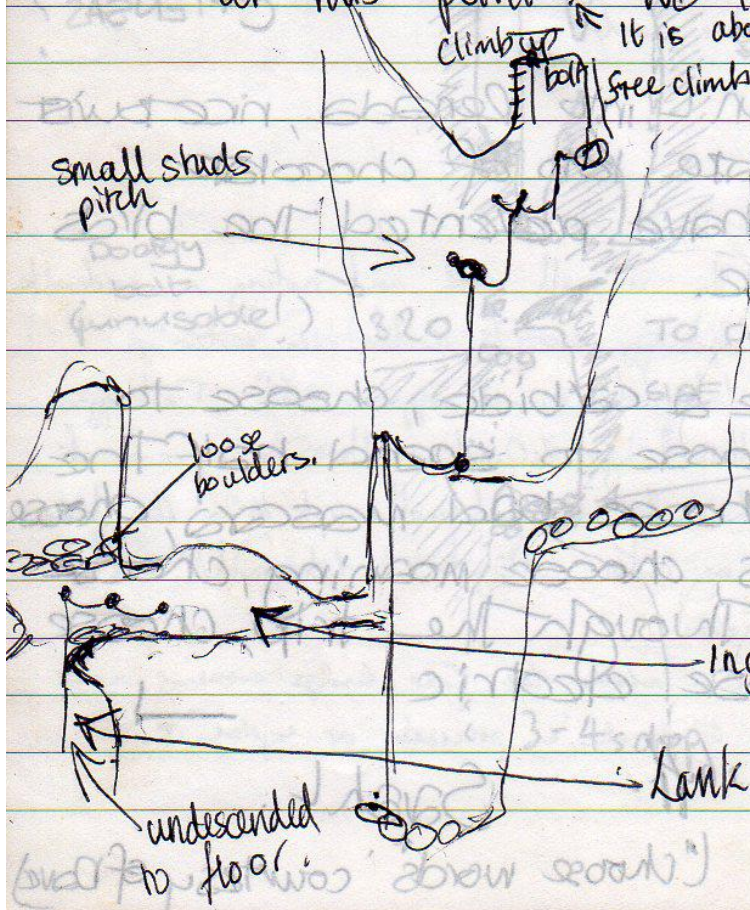
"choose words" courtesy of Dave

5. 4.99 ~~Pete Smith~~ Pete Smith, Jane C. 1332 (Cueva de Juan Lombreira)

Got through the squeeze we copped out up the climb in the chamber & rigged & descended the next pitch. At the bottom of the pitch were a lot of collapsed blocks but about 3m up from the pitch was a squeeze through into a small pneumatic chamber from which the big pitch Pete Eagan saw last year leads off.

6.4.99 Pete Smith, Andy Quinn, Terry W, Jane C. Cueva de Juan Lombreira.

Went back to drop the big pitch. Jane & Pete thought we should use ladders as the pitch head seemed awkward - this was a mistake. Really both pitches need doing on rope. We didn't have enough gear to rig the big pitch (Cavidad Grande de los Molinos (Mitt's big cavity) (Lank has toothache)) so we went down about 5m - Pete went down about 25m & said that the pitch belled out at this point. We left the rest for the summer.



Bolt warning. This is rigged on 6mm bolts which may not be safe. Re rig on 8mm or spits.

It is about 12m more to the bottom approx.

The ladder from the climb out of the chamber to the capped squeeze was left in. It is quite thin & not in very good condition. It is attached to one 6mm bolt.

Nice write up 9/6 LUNA ESTRELLA! ★

02/04/99 La Gatuna - TOBY, JANE, LANK, TERRY.

Small hole at side of road. Placed on map as number 1400.

Cave is formed under sandstone bed. Short crawl through boulders leads to small chamber. Scramble up loose blocks then further short crawl into another small chamber with blocks in the floor. Ahead is too tight slot down in boulders and to the left a tight drop of about 6m seems to open up half way down - may need a ladder.

Very little drought, the cave is plastered in clay & mud and probably fills with water during wet periods. Not much potential of any extension. L = 12m

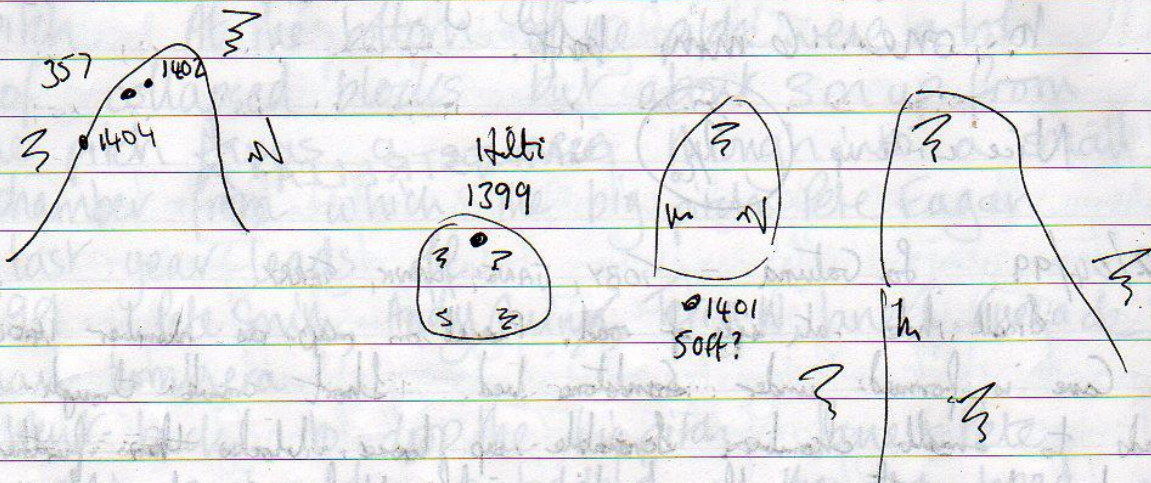
Dig above Cubija Los Hoyos is 1399

7/4/99 Start at 4:30pm to Cubija and the area above Hoyos (72). Terry, Juan, Pete, Jane, Toby, Lank, Penny to site 1399 which needed Hilti capping. Toby tapped in the first saying that he'd never had one go off while tapping in - boom! Flying rock cut finger and was a good lesson to the assembly. Most had a go at capping - Juan's attempt was described as a wet fart. Remains pulled out leaving a draughting, bouldery dig.

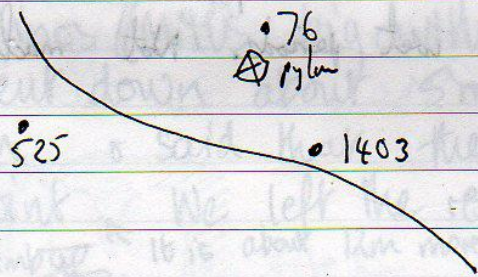
70m to east, before next big depression set is a new shaft 1401, 40ft-50ft deep undescended until tomorrow.

Probably saw 357 (4m deep) with new small hole next

to it which needs opening up - about 9m deep. (1402)



Had a quick look at 525 and Pete removed some boulders from the open climb down of 1403 right next to the track.



Probably looked at by Lamb in years gone by when anything less than a kilometer wasn't recorded.

1404 steep sloping entrance on south side of large depression circa 20m above its bottom; 5m slippery slope leads into rocky corner and a shaft of about 6m follows. Not descended. Terry W. & P. Corran.

8/4/99 Rained all day!

8/4/99 Pues que sí que llavará todo el día pero ~~es~~ los espeleólogos más duros fuimos a ~~una~~ una cueva, ~~pero~~ (Sarah, Dave, Abby + Ian) pero, solo para rescatar una maldita espana que dejamos en

Mostaja hace 3 dias. Sob eso, y nada más.
vale, en inglés para los incompetentes que no entienden español! (NB, estamos en España, hay que aprender un poquitín de español!)

Right, it might have rained all day, but it didn't stop the hardest

covers (soon, one, Abby, Jan) from being speleologically nice word! a ctive

however, we only went to mostaja on an uneventful spanner rescue mission

DAVE had dropped 3 days partner 1st pitch out - all

Abby.

WHIT

To enter in Easter 1999 Logbook

Easter 1999

Sam Lieberman, Terry Whitaker, Jim Davis, Snablet, Jrat, Rick, Andy.

Most people had departed and whilst quietly contemplating our cleaned up gear prior to going home we were approached by Pablo. There was a problem, an animal down a hole. A rapid confirmation that this was not a 'deja vu' scenario caused by the 'Santander pirates' dig near 415 we were told it was nearer Fuente Las Varas. We said we would be ready in an hour and the farmer was to send us a guide.

Retrieving gear from Pete Smith's house and Sam from washing his gear in the river we set off to Fuente Las Varas and west along the ridge to the farm.. The farmer told us a foal had vanished down an open pit which was probably very deep and it was likely to be dead.

1km further West and lower down we reached a hole guarded by very large and loose flake. Bolts were placed and Jim descended 20m to a very dead foal further 6m drop into a too tight fissure led off.

Terry Whitaker

(printed + stuck in)
August 2007

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT