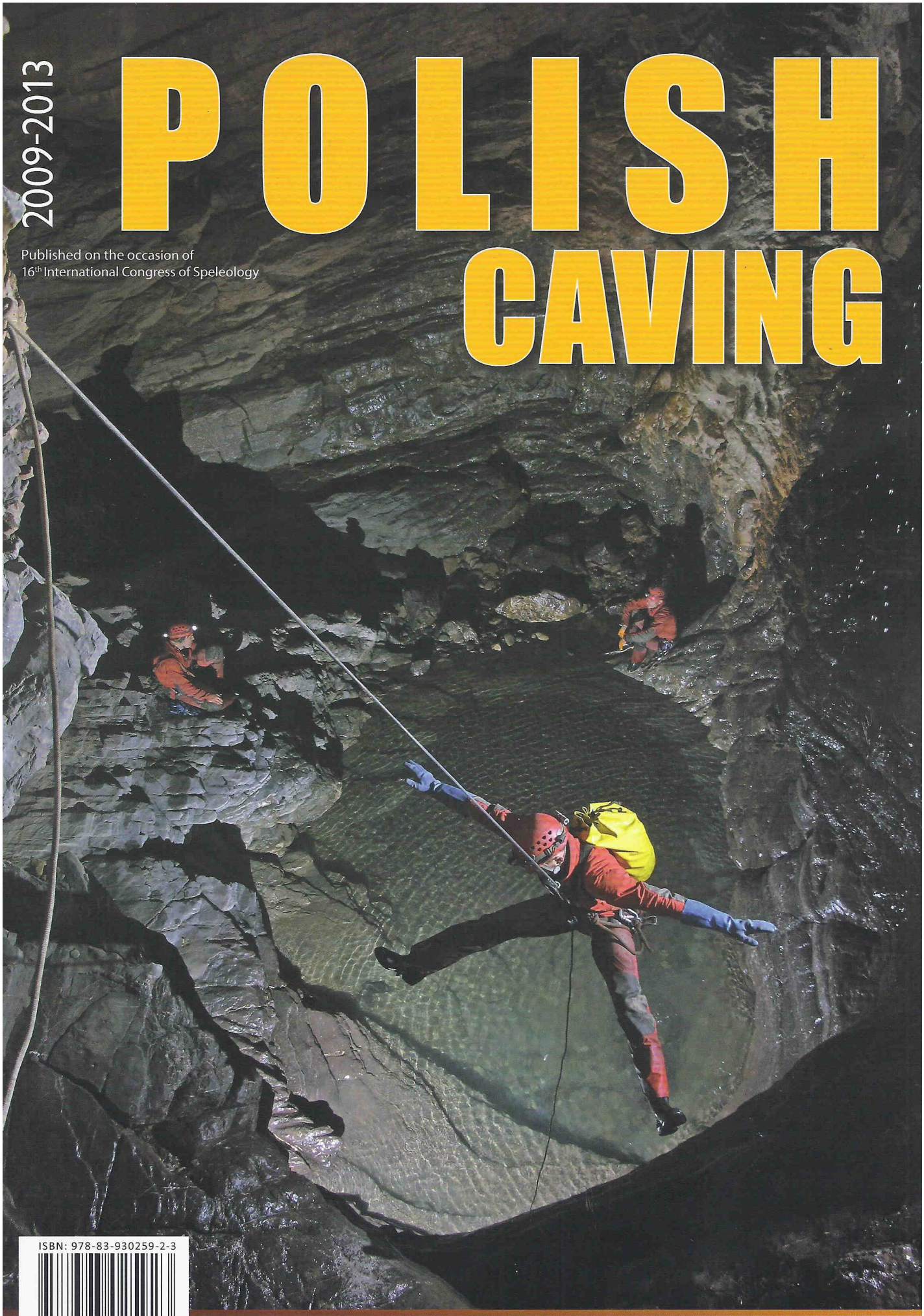
2009-2013

POLISH CAVING

Published on the occasion of
16th International Congress of Speleology



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What is new since 2009?

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Contens

Caves in Poland
Michał Gradziński & Ditta Kicińska 4

Caving organizations in Poland
Ditta Kicińska 7

Niedźwiedzia Cave (Sudetes)
Marek Markowski 8

Hagengebirge, Austria. The exploration of the Interessante Höhle by Sopocki Klub Taternictwa Jaskiniowego and Sekcja Grotołazów Wrocław
Marek Wierzbowski 10

Recent activity in Hoher Göll
Mateusz Golicz 13

Exploration in Kanin massif by Caving Section of Kraków Mountaineering Club in years 2009–2012
Paweł Ramatowski & Piotr Sienkiewicz 15

More than 8 km in Feichtnerschacht
Jakub Nowak 17

Explorations in the eastern part of the Tennengebirge massif by Speleoklub Bobry from Żagań (2009–2012)
Rajmund Kondratowicz 20

Leoganger Steinberge
Andrzej Ciszewski 24

Picos de Europa – El Cornion
Marek Jędrzejczak 28

Prokletije 2009–2013
Ditta Kicińska & Krzysztof Najdek 32

Arabika. Western Caucasus
Michał Górski 35

In the caves of China
Andrzej Ciszewski 38

Summery of other activities
edited by Ditta Kicińska 41

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From the editor

With great pleasure we present the special publication entitled "Polish Caving 2009-2013", published on the occasion of 16th International Congress of Speleology. The aim of the publication is to show the main achievements of Polish cavers over the last four years.

Traditionally, a lot of teams continued exploration in Austria. The most spectacular success seems to be the reaching of -1394 m in the Hochschartehöhlensystem (Hoher Göll massif). It is the deepest cave ever explored solely the Polish cavers (see article by Golicz). In the neighboring Hagengebirge massif Interessante Höhle were explored, which exceeded the length of 10 km and Höhle in Roten Steinen was explored to the depth of -855 m (see article by Wierzbowski). Some of the achievements were done in the Kitzsteinhorn massif. The Feichtnerschacht Cave reached the length of 8 km and the depth of -1145 m (see article by Nowak). For many years the main aim of expedition to Tennengebirge was the JackDaniel's Cave. After 2012 the cave has the length of almost 8.5 km (see article by Kondratowicz). Exploration was continued in Leoganger Steinberge (in Dürrkar), where the Tropik-Ćwiartka Cave system is now 6 km long and -780 m deep (see article by Ciszewski). In the Picos de Europa massif, there are results of discoveries in two cave systems: Cemba Vieja and Pozu del Torre Santa Maria which have the depth exceeding -860 m (see article by Jędrzejczak). The Poles carried out exploration in the Kanin massif, where BC-10 Cave was explored to the depth of -863 m and the length of 1,7 km (see article by Ramatowski). In Abkhazia exploration was conducted in the PL-1 cave (see article by Górski). Exploration has been carried out in Prokletije, Maganik and Durmitor mountains. In the Belič massif (Prokletije) discoveries are made in some of the caves, among them Górnicza, the deepest one, reached the depth of -516 m (see article by Kicińska & Najdek). Every year the group of divers conducts exploration in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Greece and Mexico.

Outside Europe the most spectacular discovery was made in China. In the area of Shizilu more than 8,7 km of passages were surveyed, for example, Da Dong with its length of 3,6 km and depth of -165 m (see article by Ciszewski). The Polish cavers are participants of explorations conducted by either national expeditions from other countries or international groups.

The most spectacular discovery in Poland took place in the Niedźwiedzia Cave in the Sudetes, which due to the latest explorations became the deepest and longest cave outside the Tatra Mts. What is more, in this cave one of the largest chamber in Poland was discovered (see article by Markowski).

Besides the mentioned articles on the Polish achievements in this issue one can also find information on caves in Poland, caving organizations and summary of other activities.

Ditta Kicińska

Front cover:
Xiao Luo Xi – jump over marmite.
Photo Michał Ciszewski



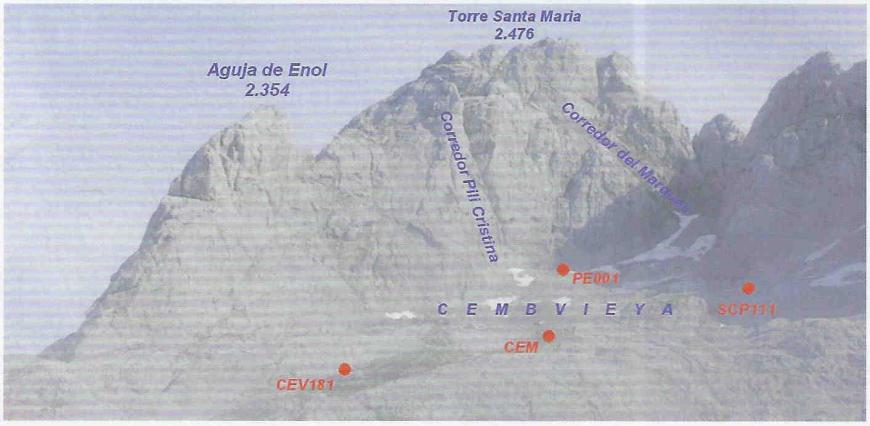
Picos de Europa – El Cornion

Marek Jędrzejczak (Speleoclub Wrocław)

Exploration of caves in Picos de Europa is co-ordinated by the Picos de Europa National Park. Through Federación Asturiana de Espeleologia, Poles were allocated a broad area in the Asturian section of the Picos range. Our region is located on the northern slopes of Torre Santa Maria and Torre del Alba, covering an area of 4,5 square km. It spans altitudes between 2390 (Torre del Alba) and 1460 (bottom of the Haas de Resecu cirque) meters above sea level.

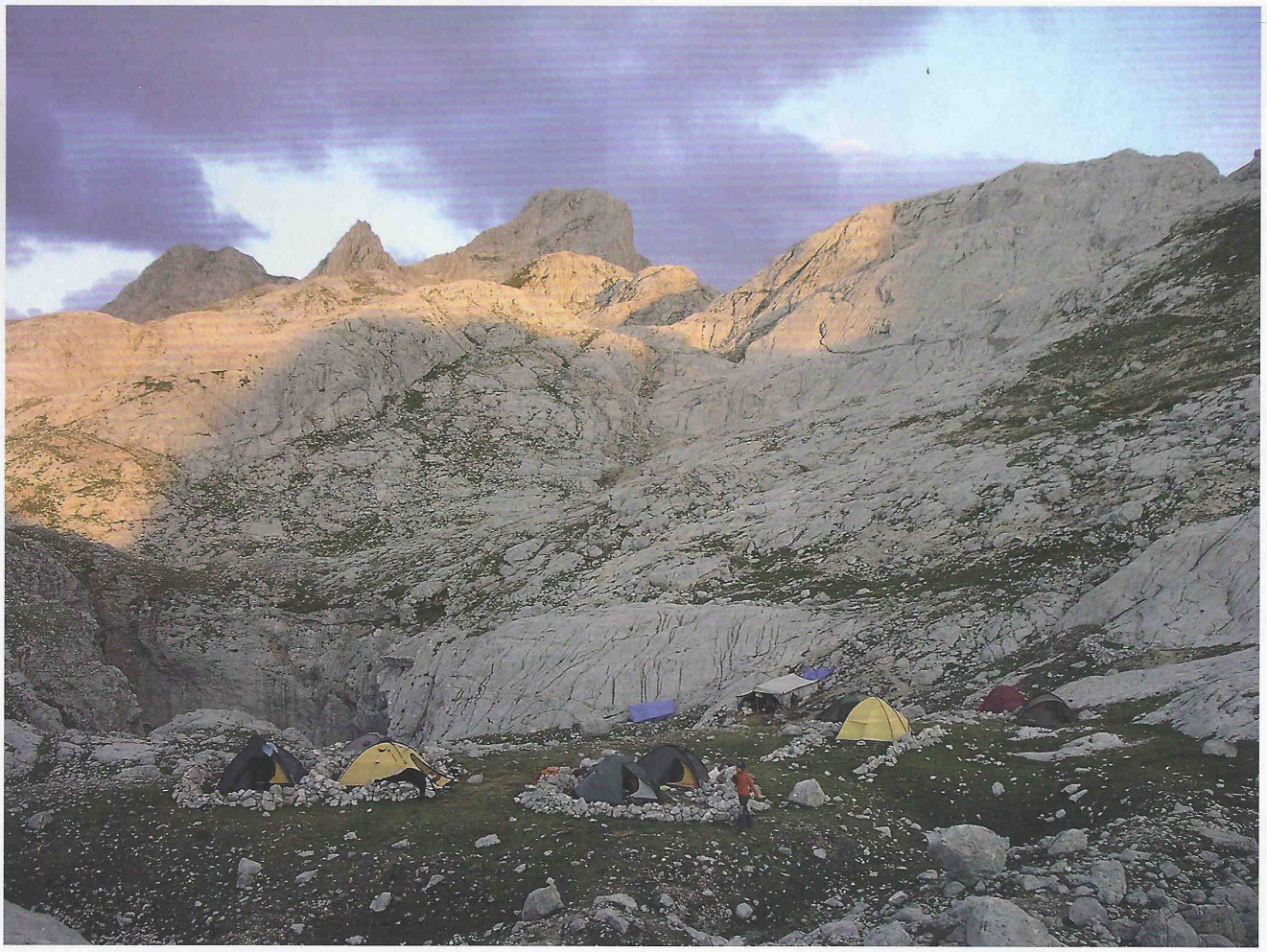
This part of El Cornion was seriously explored for the first time in 1961. Cavers from Grupo Espeleológico Polifemo (GEP) which arranged an initial recconaissance trip. It confirmed that the area is speleologically attractive. Other groups that visited the zone were: Oxford University Cave Club (OUCC; also began in 1961) and French cavers from Speleo Club Orsay de Faculte (SCOF; between 1972 and 1975).

The Poles have been present in the area since 1978. Speleoklub Gliwice [* - No longer in existence (ed.)] has totally organized 7 expeditions (1979–80, 1984, 1986–89). The most prominent caves explored during that time were: Sima Profunda (up to -204 m), Pozu del Porru la Capilla (-863 m), Pozu las Barrastrosas (-429 m) and Pozu del Picu de los Asturianos (–265 m). In the meantime, the neighbouring zones occured to host remarkable cave systems. In Vega de Ariu area, Sistema del Hitu reached 1135 meters of depth in 1981, becoming the first „-1000" in the whole Picos de Europa. Even until now, with totally 1264 m of denivelation it remains the deepest system of the western massif.



← *Torre Santa Maria Northern Wall. Photo Marcin Krajewski, description: Marek Jędrzejczak*

↓ *Base camp (from left: Torre del Alba, Picu Los Asturianos, Torre de la Canal Parda). Photo Marcin Krajewski*



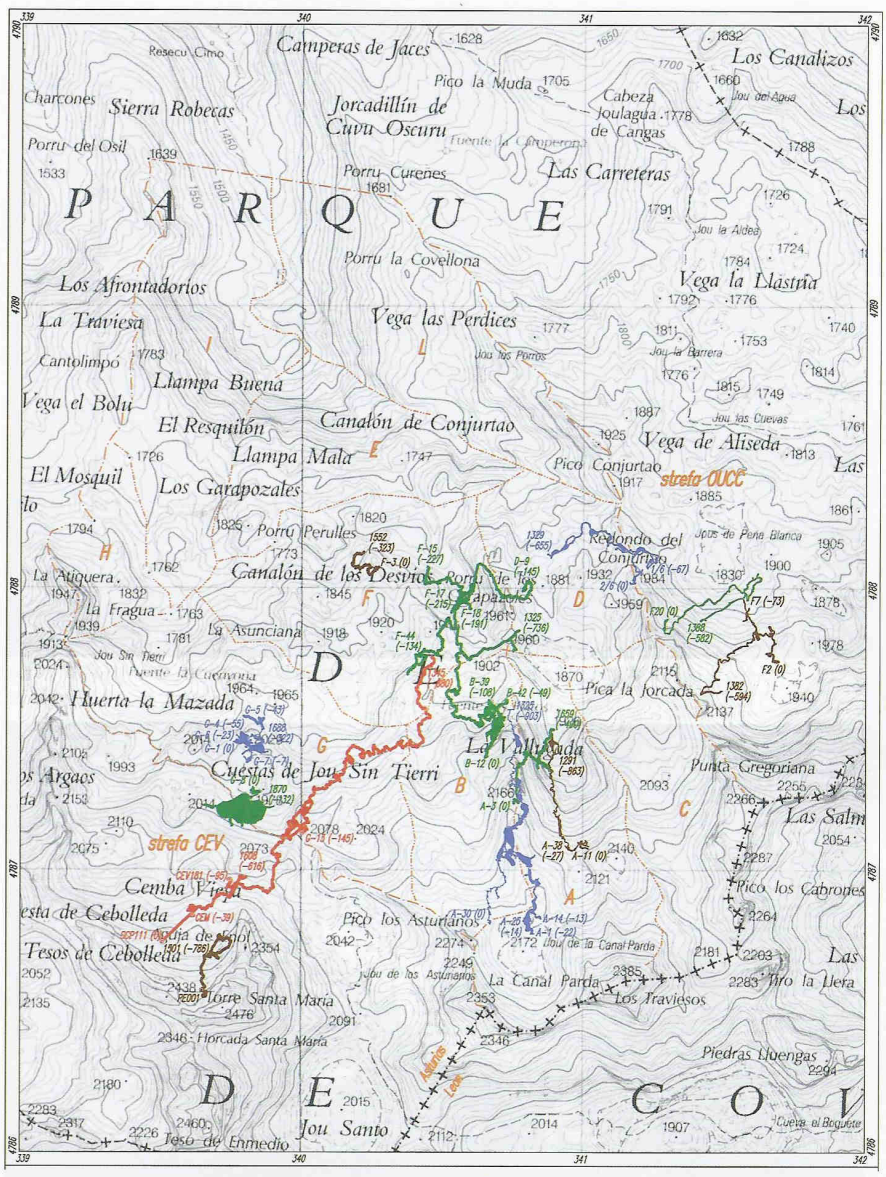
In 1991, Speleoclub Wrocław [* - Note: There are two distinct cave associations based in the city of Wrocław: Sekcja Grotolazow Wrocław (SGW) and Speleoclub Wrocław (SCW) – ed.] took over the organization of the Polish expeditions. Initially, we continued to explore Pozu del Picu de los Asturianos and Sima de la Torre de los Traviesos (Torre del Alba) o de los Organos, which resulted in joining these two objects in 1995 year into Sistema del Jou de la Canal Parda. In 1996, we deepened it to 903 meters. Meanwhile, in 1994 we started to explore Sistema del Canalon de los Desvios reaching -501 m.

Between 1997 and 2000 we searched for new entrances and did some hydrogeologic research. The most successful expedition during this period took place in 1998. That year, significant discoveries were made in Sistema del Canalon de los Desvios (-542) and Pozu del Porru de los Garapozales (-432 m). Unexpectedly, expeditions between 2001 and 2006 brought us back to Sistema del Canalon de los Desvios. We subsequently connected new entrances to that system: B-12 (2002), D-9 (2003), B-39 (2005), B-42 (2005), as well as F-44 (2006).

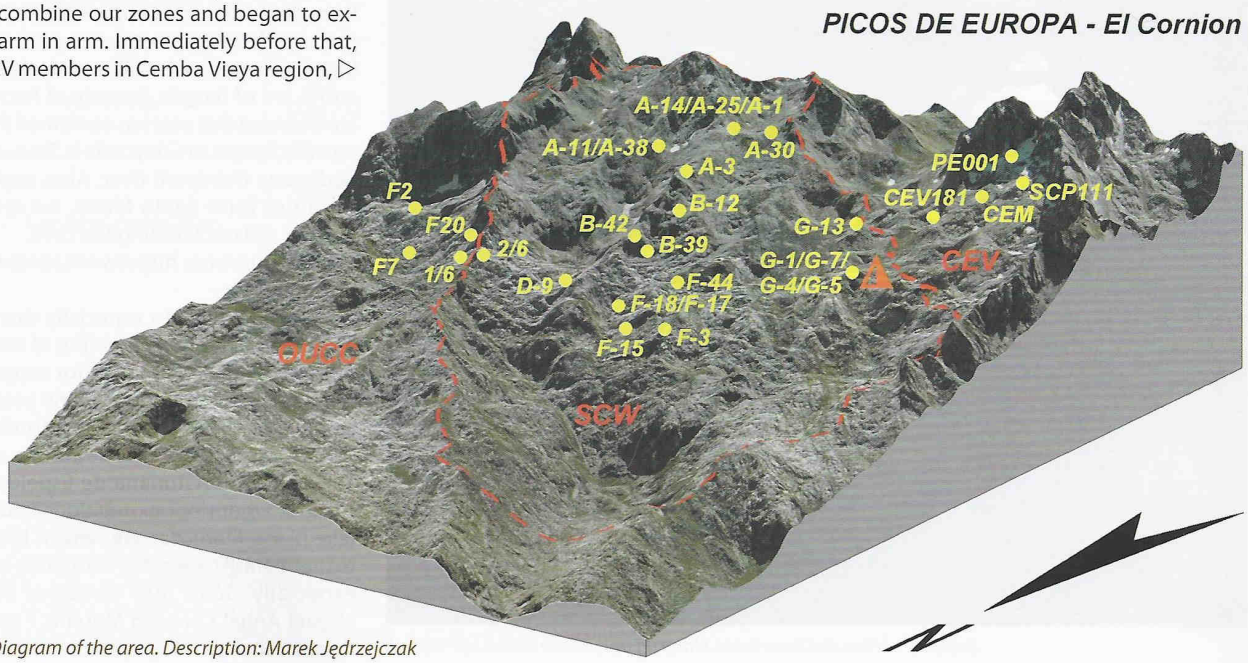
In 2003 we returned to Pozu del Porru de los Garapozales. In 2004 we reached -490 m and during the 2005 expedition we eventually finished this cave, not finding any new possibilities.

At the same time, long-term effort in the neighbouring zone paid off and the OUCC group accomplished another great success. By connecting Pozu Joulagua with Asopladeru la Texa, they announce in 2003 the Sistema Joulagua - la Texa, being 1004 meters deep.

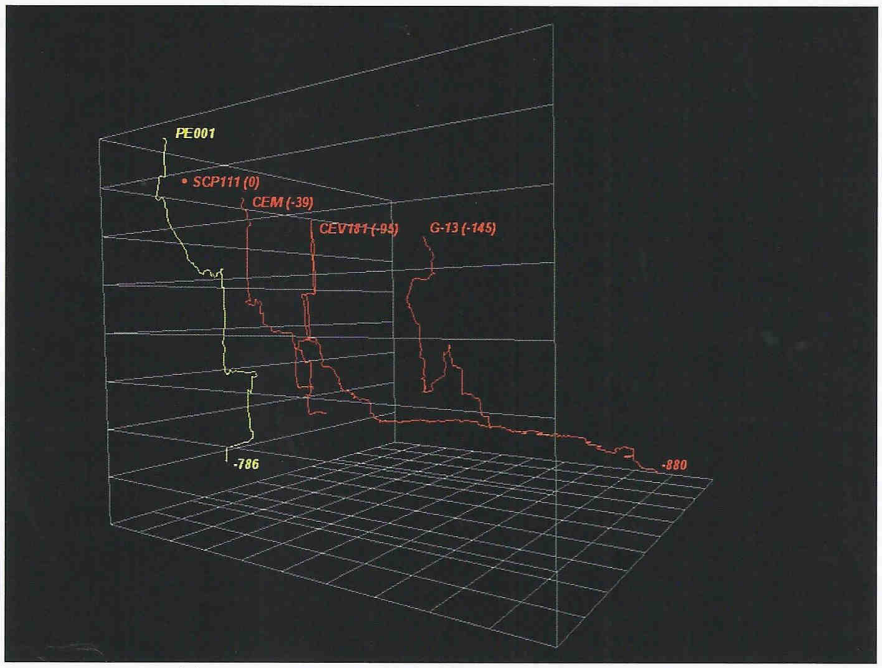
Since 2008, we have been strictly cooperating with members of Sección de Exploraciones Subterráneas de Centro Excursionista de Valencia (CEV). In that year, we decided to combine our zones and began to explore arm in arm. Immediately before that, the CEV members in Cemba Vieya region, ▷



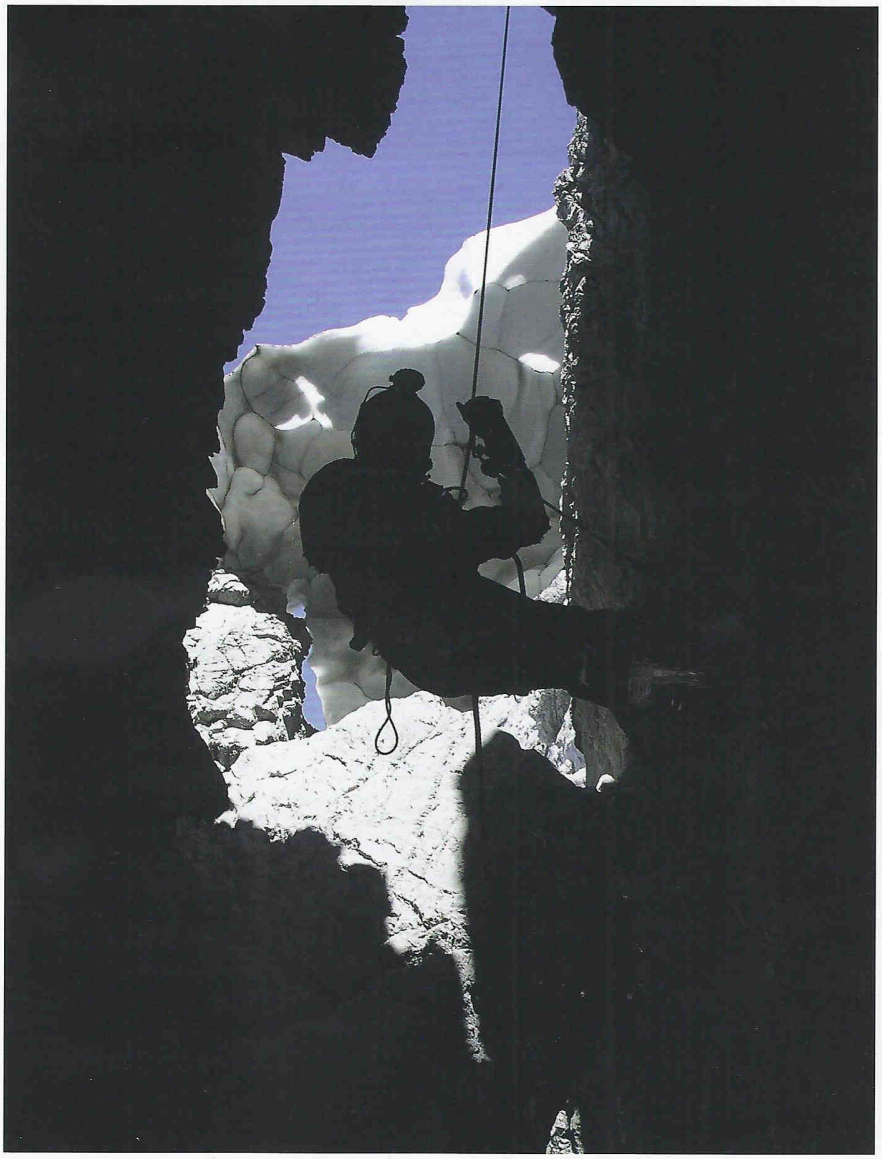
Map of the area. Description: Marek Jędrzejczak



Block Diagram of the area. Description: Marek Jędrzejczak



Pozu del Torre Santa Maria (PE001) and Sistema Cemba Vieya (SCP111_CEM_CEV181_G-13). Description: Marek Jędrzejczak



Entrance of Pozu del Torre Santa Maria (PE001). Photo Marek Jędrzejczak

among other objects, had been exploring Pozu del Aguja de Enol reaching initially -207 m in 1990 and finally -499 m in 2006.

During 2008, our main goal was Pozu del Aguja de Enol. We made it to –574 m, not finishing all the leads. The northwestern part part of this cave approached closely Pozu Las Barrastrosas, which is developed along the same joint. Lots of snow remaining after the winter of 2009 made futher progress difficult. Finally, we reached -730 m during the 2009 expedition. Unfortunately, we failed to survey the new discoveries, but at least the cave did not end. During the same trip, in Pozu Los Barrastrosas we tried hard to bypass a choke on the floor of Sala Iberia, at the cave bottom. After a series of aided climbs up to -320 m, we were able to descend via a new way and achieve -488 m.

In 2010, together with a small group of cavers from Sección de Exploraciones Subterráneas de Centro Excursionista de Valencia, we went on exploring Pozu del Aguja de Enol and Pozu Las Barrastrosas. Working through the G-13 entrance, at the –540 m level we connected these both caves and then reached a sump at -784 m. Sistema Pozu del Aguja de Enol - Pozu de los Barrastrosas became 784 m deep and 4,3 km long, with a significant horizontal span of 1,1 km.

The following year we tried, but we did not achieve success to join Sistema Pozu del Aguja de Enol – Pozu de los Barrastrosas with Sistema del Canalon de los Desvios. Our goal was to bypass a sump, but we could not find any way leading northwest. We also visited Sima Cemba Vieya, with the same objective in mind. The cave was also resurveyed, in order to verify the old documentation as well confirm if the connection is actually possible. Besides, in Pozu del Torre Santa Maria we made it to -324 m.

In 2012, working from Pozu de la Aguja de Enol, we manged to connect Sistema Pozu de la Aguja de Enol – Pozu los Barrastrosas with Sistema Cemba Vieya. The combined system boasts 880 m of denivelation and 6 km of length. A study of karst flow commenced that year has confirmed the system discharges to Güeyos de la Texá and Riu Redimuna (Pomperi) river. Also, exploring Pozu del Torre Santa Maria, we reached –786 m, still not finishing the cave.

Read more on: http://www.scw.wroc.pl/wyprawy.php

We would like to especially thank our friend and a honorary member of our club, Armando Alonso Bernardo, for supporting our activities throughout many years. We would also like to thank the authorities of Parque Nacional de Picos de Europa, as well as Federación Asturiana de Espeleologia, without whom our expeditions could not take place. Moreover, we remain indebted to the Spanish cavers that cooperate with us, especially Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez, Miguel Ángel Carrasco Moreno, Fernando Arranz Sanchis, Daniel Ballesteros. ❑

	NAME	ENTRANCE SYMBOLS	DEPTH [M]	LENGTH [M]	HORIZONTAL EXTENT (M)	YEAR, THE CLUB, THE RESULT
1.	Sistema del Hou de la Canal Parda (Pozu del Picu de los Asturianos – Sima de la Torre del Alba o de los Organos)	A-30 (0) A-14 (-13) A-25 (-14) A-1 (-22)	-903	4401 + ca. 450	760	1974 SCOF, -330 in A-1 1975 SCOF, -416 in A-1 **1988 SG, -100 in A-30** **1989 SG, -265 in A-30** **1991 SCW, -552 in A-30** **1994 SCW, -726 in A-30** **1995 SCW, -429, connection of A-1 with A-30 (-726)** **1996 SCW, -903**
2.	Sistema Cemba Vieja (Sima Parodia – Sima Cemba Vieja – Pozu de la Aguja de Enol – Pozu les Barrastoses)	SCP111 (0) CEM (-39) CEV181 (-95) G-13 (-145)	-880	5644 + ca. 450	1390	1974 GMT, -75 in CEM 1977 SEII and GEP, -280 in CEM 1979 SEII, -315 in CEM 1981 SEII, -510 in CEM 1982 SEII and LUSS, -577 in CEM 1984 SCP, ca. -250 in SCP111 1985 SCP, ca. -330 in SCP111 and connection with CEM **1989 SGKWW, -429 in G-13** CEV, -30 in CEV181 1990 CEV, -207 in CEV181 2006 CEV, -499 in CEV 181 **2008 SCW and CEV, -574 in CEV181** **2009 SCW and CEV, -690 in CEV 181** **SCW, -459 in G-13** **2010 SCW, -548, connection G-13 with CEM (-880)** **SCW and CEV, -784** **2012 SCW, -482, connection of CE181 with CEM (-880)**
3.	Pozu del Porru la Capilla	A-11 (0) A-38 (-27)	-863	1754	440	**1984 SG, -180** **1986 STJC, -400** **1987 SG, -863** **2003 SCW, -123, connection of A-38 with A-11 (-683)**
4.	Pozu del Torre Santa María	PE001	-786	1437	230	**2009 SCW, 0** **2011 SCW, -324** **2012 SCW, -786**
5.	Sistema del Canalon de los Desvios	B-12 (0) B-42 (-43) B-39 (-104) F-44 (-134) D-9 (-148) F-18 (-202) F-17 (-226) F-15 (-239)	-736	6610 + ca. 50	706	**1994 SCW, -501 in F-18/F-17** **1995 SCW, -446, connection F-15 with F-18/F-17 (-501)** **1998 SCW, -542 in F-18/F-17/F-15** **2001 SCW, -404 in B-12** **2002 SCW, -710, connection of B-12 with F-18/F-17/F-15 (-736)** **SCW, -324 in D-9** **2003 SCW, -491, connection of D-9 with F-18/F-17 (-736)** **2005 SCW, -257, connection of B-39 with B-12 (-736)** **SCW, -320, connection B-42 with B-12 (-736)** **2006 SCW, -582, connection F-44 with F-18/F-17/F-15/D-9 (-736)**
6.	Pozu del Porru de los Garapozales	A-3	-490	1250	298	1975? SCOF?, -60? **1998 SCW, -432** **2003 SCW, -457** **2004 SCW, -490**
7.	Pozu los Desvios	F-3 F-3B (-3)	-323	702	97	1973 shepherd, -100 1975 SCOF, -280 **1980 SG, -323** **2000 SCW, ca. -60, connection F-3B with F-3 (-323)**
8.	Red de les Barrastroses	G-1 (0) G-7 (-7) G-4 (-55) G-5 (-43)	-322	?	145	1972 SCOF, -215 in G-7 1973 SCOF, -315 in G-7, SCOF, -130, connection G-4 with G-7 (-315) 1975 SCOF, -140, connection of G-5 with G-4/G-7 (-315) **1998 SCW, ca. -50, connection G-1 with G-4/G-7/G-5 (-322)**
9.	bez nazwy	SCP 134	-240	?	42	1984 SCP, -38 1985 SCP, -157 **1986 SCP and KKS, -240**
10.	Sima Profunda	Prof.	-204	?	?	**1979 SG, -188** **1980 SG, -204**

* **KKS** – Katowicki Klub Speleologiczny; **SCW** – Speleoclub Wrocław; **SG** – Speleoklub Gliwice; **SGKWW** – Sekcja Grotołazów Klubu Wysokogórskiego Wrocław; **STJC** – Sekcja Taternictwa Jaskiniowego Częstochowa;
CEV – Sección de Exploraciones Subterráneas de Centro Excursionista de Valencia, Hiszpania; **GEP** – Grupo Espeleologia Polifemo, Oviedo, Hiszpania; **GMT** – Grupo de Montana Torreblanca, Oviedo, Hiszpania; **LUSS** – Lancaster University Speleological Society, Lancaster, Anglia; **SEII** – Seccion de Espeleologia Ingenieros Industriales, Madrid, Hiszpania; **SCOF** – Speleo Club Orsay Faculte, Orsay, Francja; **SCP** – Espeleo-Club de la Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Hiszpania. In bold – Polish expeditions