

Peru

Ranrapalca, North Spur, Cordillera Blanca. On August 29 and 30, Britons Joe Simpson and Rick Potter climbed a new route on Ranrapalca (6162 meters, 20,216 feet), the north spur. This lies to the left of the ascent made in 1975 by Johns, Slaymaker and Rourke. An article on the present climb appears in *High* of December, 1994 on pages 31 to 34.

Chacaraju Este. In mid July, Masael Alvial and I made two attempts on the Bouchard-Meunier route on Chacaraju Oeste. On the first attempt, we were stopped one pitch up by weather and bad ice. The second was stopped after three pitches when we found a 3-inch coating of ice on a vertical wall where we could get no protection. We then opted for the Jaeger route on Chacaraju Este. We reached a point just below the summit cornice which was too unstable to surmount, as it had been for Jaeger.

DAGOBERTO DELGADO, *Club Alemán Andino, Santiago, Chile*

Bolivia

Bolivian Climbing in 1994. We suffered losses in 1994. A Pole died on Huayna Potosí on March 31 and three Austrians were caught by bad weather on Illimani on June 18. Two of them perished. On a more positive note, Bolivian guides Gregorio and Eduardo Mamani with Dr. Tito Carrasco made a variant of the Lyon route on the west face of Huayna Potosí on July 6. A rescue group was formed. I finished the construction of a climbing hut at the base of Huayna Potosí. For reservations, get in touch with me at the Hotel Continental, Avenida Illampu 626, Casilla 731, La Paz; telephone 313584-795936; fax 591-2-378226.

HUGO BARRIOS, *Club Andino Boliviano*

Alpamayo Chico, Condoriri, Illampu, Cordillera Real; Quimsa Cruz. Holly Samson and I visited the easily accessed area around Condoriri. Our scenic Base Camp at 14,700 feet was an ideal spot to acclimatize and climb in a compact cirque of six or so peaks of 16,000 to 18,000 feet with one-day moderate mountaineering or technical alpine routes. We climbed Alpamayo Chico (5223 meters, 17,135 feet) by its northwest ridge, a fine, exposed route with a short section of 50° snow-and-ice below the summit. I later soloed the direct south face of Condoriri (5648 meters, 18,531 feet), a striking face of continuous 60° snow-and-ice with a tricky rock band of loose, shattered rock midway. I descended the normal southwest ridge, completing the round-trip in four hours. The highlight was visiting the northern Cordillera Real, where we climbed Illampu (6368 meters, 20,891 feet) by its northwest ridge. An approach now being used starts at Sorata (8500 feet) on a trail to Lacatiya (13,000 feet), the highest village, then crosses the steep, untrailed Huila Khota Pass (15,700

feet) before reaching Base Camp at Aguas Calientes (14,700 feet). This makes for an eight-hour day with a 7000-foot gain, but it avoids a two-day approach and an expensive jeep ride. Arrangements for pack animals are available at the Hotel Copacabana in Sorata. The northwest ridge of Illampu is considered one of the hardest “normal” routes on the major Bolivian peaks. The lower half ascends a 1200-foot of 50° snow-and-ice above a high camp at 18,000 feet. It then joins the northwest ridge for 1200 feet of 40° snow, which is frequently broken by crevasses and séracs. The final ridge involves tricky route-finding and short, steep ice sections. The summit is a classic Andean knifeblade of corniced snow. We also briefly visited the Quimsa Cruz, southeast of La Paz. The northern part has several valleys of spectacular granite spires and peaks, with continuous faces of 500 to 800 feet. The rock quality is good, but the cracks are choked with dirt and grass and the temperatures in the shade are cold. We had excellent weather during our month stay from mid May to mid June, which seems to be the norm. Apparently snow conditions improve as the season progresses into July and August, when firmer snow and ice are wanted on technical routes.

DAVID NETTLE, *Unaffiliated*

Chachacomani and Other Peaks, Cordillera Real. Over the last decade, the American Alpine Institute has been climbing in the Chachacomani region. We returned from June to September in 1994. We have in the past approached from Lago Khara Kkota by four-wheel drive to the old Mina Natividad and Mina Santa Rosa, where we began a two-day walk to camp in the Echsococho valley. The old foot trail is now a road passable to Loro Kiriparque. This reduces the approach time to a moderate day. All climbs were done from a 16,100-foot camp between Chachacomani and the smaller 17,000-to 18,000-foot peaks to the east. We made two first ascents. *Cerro Chura* is a ragged peak (5715 meters, 18,750 feet) that lies to the east of Chachacomani and can be seen from anywhere on the east of that peak as well as from the summits of Cerro Wampa, Cerro Cororico and Pico Elena. The first ascent was made by John Culberson, Joel Arellano and Bolivian Juan Chura via the exposed west ridge on moderate snow and ice. It is best reached after climbing Cerro Wampa. “*Pico Elena*” (5532 meters, 18,150 feet) is the peak seen on the right when crossing the first pass into the Echsococho valley from the new road. An initial attempt on the west ridge failed. I went back in August with Mike Chase, Julie Lawrence and John Liron and traversed moderate snow and ice with two steep sections on the east ridge, then dropped south and went directly up to the summit from the southeast. We named the mountain after Chase’s wife. We also made two new routes. Culberson, Arellano and I, along with Bert Herrington, Ken Younge, Vincent Hill and Erol Ozsahin, climbed a very direct line up the east face of *Chachacomani* (6066 meters, 19,902 feet) and through séracs to the top. There was varied 30° to 60° climbing with a short section of steeper water ice in the final sérac band. It was a fun climb with possible objective danger from falling