

P.M. after four days of preparation. Seven bolts remain in place. This ascent rises to the right of the previous one. I then made the second ascent of *Le Petit Prince* on the Aguja Saint Exupéry and the first solo of the route (ED+, 6b+, A3). I spent eight days of climbing from my snow cave on the glacier. I bivouacked four times in the snow cave in the bergschrund and three times on a portaledge. I reached the summit on January 20 after climbing capsule-style. Crossing the glacier solo was a serious problem because of the crevasses.

LIONEL DAUDET, *Club Alpin Français*

Cerro Grande, East Ridge. On February 12, 1994, Spaniards Iñaki Ruiz and Pedro Udaondo climbed the east ridge of Cerro Grande. This was an ice climb with a vertical rise of 450 meters.

Cristal, Cacique and Mascarello, Upsala Glacier. In early 1995, Rolando Garibotti, Ramón Calvo and Diego Luro had hoped to cross the Glacier Upsala to climb Murallón, but they found the crevasses so wide that they gave up trying to cross and had to content themselves with climbing three peaks on the east side of the glacier. These had been climbed some years ago by Jure Skvarča and Mario Serrano.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina*

Exploration West of Paine Group, 1993. On February 5, 1985, I made the first ascent of Cerro Zapata (1530 meters, 5020 feet), west of Lago Pingo. Fascinated by the view, I was determined to come back to this area. In December 1993, I returned with my wife Maria. We started from the administration center of the Torres del Paine National Park on December 15 with two horses to bring equipment through the Pingo valley as close to the Glacier Tyndall as possible. Since the horses couldn't cross a river in flood, we did the risky job ourselves and hauled the gear up to the glacier in several relays. On December 19, we climbed P 1125 on the east rim of the glacier for a perfect view of the route across it. We crossed the glacier at 51°08'S to its west side where we camped at the confluence of the Tyndall with another mighty glacier joining it from the west. Camp was at the southeastern end of a mountain chain that stretched to the northwest. On December 23, we climbed the southernmost peak (1225 meters). On the 27th, we climbed P 1574 (5160 feet), a triangular pyramid, from the south. The weather was mostly excessively windy and stormy.

MICHAEL KREMSNER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Climbing Season in the Paine Group, 1994-95. [Because the *American Alpine Journal* goes to press before the complete record for the current season is on hand, we are very grateful to Chris Breemer for his information written

PLATE 56

Photo by Chris Breemer

**Brad Jarrett on the EAST Wall of
the ESCUDO, Paine Group.**



at the beginning of March. We hope to fill in gaps in next year's AAJ. — *Editor.*] Our climb of the Escudo was one of the earliest climbs in the Paine group this season. [See below.] On the Torre Norte del Paine, numerous teams were active, repeating the standard Monzino Route and climbing new routes as well. After only three weeks in the park, Slovenes Andrej Štremfelj and Marko Prezelj completed a route on its east face previously attempted by another Slovene party. They reported that they encountered some difficult hooking and generally climbed on less than perfect rock. Their description of "difficult hooking" should be taken at face value, given Prezelj's recent ascent of El Capitan's *Wyoming Sheep Ranch* (A5+). On the other side of the Torre Norte, Italians Giancarlo Polacci, Sestoluiigi Borghesi and Alessandro Angelini returned to complete *Giorgio Giannaccini* (VII, A2). Surprisingly, the Torre Central had seen only one ascent by mid February, an ascent by Americans on the original Bonington-Whillans route. Five Basques and a Castilian returned to the east face to make a second effort on a line left of *Mágica Este*. Last year they were chased off of the peak due to a permit dispute and this year bad luck continued as one of their members was seriously injured by icefall. By mid February, they were still unsuccessful. Mike Turner, Louise Thomas, Martin Doyle and Ollie Sanders from Wales made a first ascent on the east face of the Cuerno Norte del Paine. Their route reportedly climbs a wall with 20 overhanging pitches that was fairly well protected from precipitation and from the notorious Patagonian winds, allowing them to climb on days when other routes were out of condition. On a sour note, the Chilean Park Service has made good on its threat to charge peak fees for climbing in the Parque Nacional Torres del Paine. The \$850 fee for foreign expeditions came as a bitter surprise to many climbers, causing some to change plans and head for the nearby Fitz Roy region, while others paid and remained in the midst of an acrimonious atmosphere between the climbers and the park service. The newly instituted peak fees may result in a drop in climber visitation to the Paine group and a corresponding increase to the Fitz Roy area, where climbing is free.

CHRIS BREEMER

Escudo, East Face, Paine Group. In early December, 1994, Brad Jarrett, Christian Santelices and I arrived at the Japanese Camp, high in the Río Ascensio valley. From that base, we made carries up the two-hour approach to the foot of the east wall of Cerro Escudo. We spied a vague system of cracks that we hoped would lead us up the 4000-foot wall. On December 17, with two ropes fixed and 500 pounds at the foot of the face, we began a continuous push for the summit. Christian and I shivered the first night as Brad drilled a ladder of rivets to the base of a large roof. Using it as a protection from falling rock and ice, we erected our portaledge under it and crawled in to wait out a 36-hour storm. Rather than the standard single point suspension, our portaledge was anchored from the top and bottom, protecting us from wildly erratic winds and strong updrafts. When the storm abated, we began climbing along a series of