

was mostly névé with sections of steeper ice. It was probably a first ascent.

On July 19, Jane and Heather climbed Huayna Potosi (6088m) by the normal route on the east side, while Rob, Tom, Sam and I climbed the West Face (1000m of 55° névé). Jane and Heather then climbed Illimani (6438m) by the standard route. After this Sam and I traveled to the Illampu region, and on the east side of the range we climbed, together with Jenz Richter, the Austrian Route on Pico del Norte (6045m). This was an excellent 1000-meter ice face, beginning with 55-60° névé and leading to an upper rock band where a right-hand exit was taken, resulting in several hundred meters of water ice up to 70°.

On August 19, Sam and I did the probable second ascent of the French Direct Route on the West Face of Illampu (6438m). This 1000-meter line was first climbed by Gabbarou and Villerroel in 1990. The bottom half of the original ice ramp was badly melted out, so we opted for a thin ice ribbon cutting through the first major rock band well to the left of the French Route. This involved a short overhanging section (Scottish technical 6) to enter the narrow couloir, then several pitches of good ice to eventually join the French Route. The upper ramp was mostly 65° ice with very little snow or névé. The weather deteriorated in the afternoon and we had to climb through blizzards and whiteout. We reached the summit in a storm at midnight, and were forced to bivouac with no food or bivy gear. We descended the normal route the next day.

While Sam and I were in the Illampu area, the others traveled to the Sorel Oeste region of the Apolobamba range. On August 6 the foursome did the first ascent of the beautiful Southwest Face of Sorel Oeste (5471m). They approached the face by ascending the west side of the glacier on the south side of Sorel Oeste. The lower section of the face was 300 meters of 50° snow/névé, while the upper section was an icy runnel to the summit, with about 200 meters of 60° ice. Finally, from August 10 to 14, Rob and Tom did a four-day traverse of the Palomani group.

PAUL SCHWEIZER, *University of Edinburgh Mountaineering Club*

CORDILLERA REAL

Illampu, West Face, New Route. It was reported that a French pair climbed a new route, *Entourloup* (TD, 800m+) on the west face of Illampu (6368m) in September, 1996. Further details are lacking. (*High Mountain Sports* 176)

Cordillera Real, Overview. In the Cordillera Real, snow consolidated on the normal routes to give perfect conditions for most of the season. The normal route on Huayna Potosi was regularly climbed by guided parties in four hours from high camp and the Illimani normal route in five hours from high camp. A bad weather period during one week in August was blamed on the El Niño phenomenon, as are most things at present. There was a major theft problem from tents at Camp I (Puente Roto) on Illimani in July, but decisive police action appeared to put an end to that. However, climbers should make sure everything is inside the tent (not the vestibule); tying packs together seems to work.

YOSSI BRAIN, *United Kingdom*

The Jallawaya/Nigruni-Mountains, Various Ascents. The Jallawaya/Nigruni-Mountains, part of the Cordillera Real, have a lot of small glaciers. The highest peak is Jallawaya (5660m). A small rough road accesses the range, but if there is a lot of rain and snow, the "road" is impassable (there are a lot of river crossings, with no bridges and stoneslides and landslides).

For the approach, you need a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Theft can be a problem, so we made our base camp near a shepherd's hut at 4600 meters. During the last few years, the glaciers and steep ice faces have receded very quickly. On the steep faces, you now have more rock, but its quality is bad, with a lot of rotten rock and loose blocks. You can also have problems with rockfall.

We climbed in February, when there is more snow and ice on the steep faces. This meant that the conditions for mixed climbs were acceptable. In the main season (June-September), most of the faces will be pure rotten rock faces. But in February, we had a lot of bad weather! A big landslide destroyed the rough road to base camp on February 16, making the road impassable. We walked 30 kilometers back to civilization.

On February 2, we climbed *Pan Durro* (IV 65/70°, 450m), a new mixed route on the southwest face of Cerro Culin Thojo South (5350m). We left three pitons and found rotten rock. On February 12, we climbed *Andalé* (IV-, 55-65°, 380m), a new mixed route on the small north couloir of the peak P.5350m west of "Cerro Ventanani." We left one piton and found rotten rock and rockfall. On February 14, we climbed *Caramba* (IV+ 65-70°, 350m), a new mixed climb on the east face of a subsidiary peak (P.5400m) near Cerro Wila Lloje. This was a first ascent. We left two pitons and one sling and found rotten rock and loose blocks. We removed all other pitons and slings from the new routes. We removed our rubbish at Base Camp and took it back to La Paz for recycling. To protect this part of nature is important. We even tried not to leave footsteps.

EDUARD BIRNBACHER, *Germany*

CORDILLERA QUIMZA CRUZ

Cordillera Quimza Cruz, Various Ascents. In early August, Thomas Miyagawa, Andrew MacAllister and I set up a base camp around abandoned miners' housing in the Ataroma valley. On August 10 we climbed the two lower peaks of the Garciela group, P.5620m and P.5580m. The third and higher peak of this group we had climbed two years earlier from the adjoining Malla Chuma Valley. These two summits were reached by following the southwest ridge of the group and then ascending the west face of P.5620m and then the south face of P.5580m. On August 12 we made a direct ascent of the southeast face of P.5520 (5510m) with the final headwall reaching 65° on styrofoam-quality snow.

Andrew MacAllister and I then climbed Mt. Ataroma (a.k.a. P.5540m), the most prominent peak in the valley, by a direct route on the southwest face leading directly to the summit on August 15. This face also reached an angle of 65°, but had much poorer-quality snow than the previous climb, mixed with hard ice and a one-and-a-half meter bergschrund five meters below the summit. The lower glacier climbing involved swimming through steep waist-deep snow and an inordinate amount of postholing for this late time in the Bolivian mountaineering season.

DAKIN COOK

Nevado Satelite, New Route. Matež Kramer and Miha Valič climbed a new route on Nevado Satelite, *Ražikža smer* (V+, 270m) in the northern part of the Cordillera Quimsa Cruz on September 17. They reported good granite. The route, which took them three hours to climb, was to the right of *Que Pasa Condor* put up by E. Martinez, M. Sivila, T. Caballero and R. Solis.

MIHA PETERNEL, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*