

Camp. We then switched our energy to the 1965 *Supercanaleta* route, which we climbed from December 30-January 1, arriving back at Campo Rio Blanco at midnight.

Most parties have approached *Supercanaleta* from Piedra del Fraile on the Rio Eléctrico and arrived at the Glaciar Polone via Paso del Cuadrado. Unless you are already based in the Torre Valley for other ascents, it is our opinion that this traditional approach would remain the best option for parties attempting any route on the northwest side of Fitz Roy. As for the descent, you remain on your own to figure it out.

JOE JOSEPHSON, *Calgary Mountain Club*

*Fitz Roy Area, Various Ascents.* On February 11, 1998, Rainer Treppter and two partners (all from Germany) summited Fitz Roy via the *Royal Flush* route (second ascent). On February 12, German Jens Richter and Jack Tigle (Scotland) climbed the Franco-Argentine route after five attempts. On February 14, three parties summited Fitz Roy: Slovene Klemen Mali and Argentine Monika Kambic, Sandi Kelneric and Bostjan Sterbal from Slovenia via the Franco-Argentine route. Two Spanish Basques climbed the *Supercanaleta* route.

There also were several repeats of the Willans route on Poincenot, and two parties did Carrington-Rouse route on the same peak.

FACUNDO JOSE, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Torre Egger and Cerro Standhart, Attempts.* Hugo Biarge, Pere Vilarasau and I tried an alpine-style ascent of *Badlands* on Torre Egger on December 15-16. We were unsuccessful. January was awful: there wasn't a single day of good weather; our ice cave got buried by snow with all the gear in it and it took us several tries to find it. During our last try on February 1 (five days before the plane was leaving), the weather improved a little so Hugo, Santiago Palacios and I went for it. We wanted to link *Tomahawk* and *Exocet*, so we started to climb at 9 o'clock at night. The route was in very bad condition but we kept going anyway. At sunrise, we reached the snow slopes on the middle section of the wall. The day was gorgeous and we were super-motivated to go on, but as soon as we climbed the first pitch on the upper goulotte of *Exocet*, the day got warmer and huge blocks of ice started to fall everywhere off the wall. The couloir was one of the most dangerous places to be because all the falling ice was funneled down it. We were only seven pitches below the summit. We went down and suffered an epic descent, rappelling off shitty gear while being hit by chunks of ice all over. It took us the whole day to reach the ground, but when we got back to the ice cave we were the happiest men on earth just because we were alive.

We still think alpine style is the right way to climb mountains, even if you have to push the limits, even if you have to fail like we did.

SIMON ELIAS, *Spain*

*Cerro Torre, Ferrari Route, and Cerro Standhart, Tomahawk and Exocet Routes, First Link-Up.* Laurence Monnoyeur and I have been to Patagonia two times, once in 1996 and the second time last year. In 1996, we climbed El Mocho via the Goulotte Grassi (IV 4+, 250m), Cerro Polone via *Mastica e Sputa* (V 5+, 650m), a route established four weeks before by Luigi Crispa and Lorenzo Nadali, and made two attempts on Fitz Roy, via the *Supercanaleta* and Franco-Argentine routes. In 1997, we arrived with good weather at Chaltén with the goal of climbing the west face of Cerro Torre. We decided to climb *A La Recherche du Temps Perdu*, which finishes at the Col of Hope (VI 5, 800m), to get on the Ferrari route. We climbed it in



eight hours, then bivied at the Col, but the weather changed, so we returned to Chaltén via the Wind Col in two days. During this trip, we used snow shoes for the approach and the return on the Hielo Continental (October 14-18). On the return, we traveled for three days via the Passo Marconi with skis and pulka to the Circo de los Altaves. From there, we approached the Ferrari route in a half day with a bivy 450 meters beneath the Col of Hope. From this bivy, from October 27-28, we free climbed (no aid, no jumaring) the Ferrari route (VI 6+, 800m) until 40 meters from the top (the rime was too bad for climbing; also, I had fallen 15 meters while on The Helmet, one of the hardest pitches of the route). We rappelled the same day via the same route to our bivy.

On November 15 and 16, we climbed *Tomahawk* (IV 6 A1) and *Exocet* (V 6). We started climbing *Tomahawk* at 12:30 a.m. and bivied at the bottom of *Exocet*. The day after we climbed *Exocet* to the top of Stanhardt and rappelled to base camp (Norwegian Camp) the same day. We free climbed both routes except for five meters at the bottom of *Tomahawk*. During the 80 days we spent in the region in 1996 and 1997, we had 20 days of good weather.

BRUNO SOURZAC, *France*

*Cerro Torre, Compressor Route, and Fitz Roy, West Face, Attempt.* On February 11, British legal alien Kevin Thaw and I climbed the *Compressor* route from the Norwegian Camp, making the trip in 27 hours. Earlier, we had attempted a new route on the west face of Fitz Roy, following approximately the same line as Joe Josephson and Jack Tackle. (The west face has one route, a 57-pitch 5.10 free climb put up over two seasons by a Czech team in 1985-86.) We climbed approximately two-thirds of the wall, in two days, before being turned back by a storm. Several teams now have attempted to climb this huge face alpine style, with no success.

MARK SYNNOTT

## ANTARCTICA

### ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

*Lamaire Channel, Various Ascents.* Greg Landreth and Keri Pashuk, with their boat Northanger, were active again in the Antarctic Peninsula, making ascents of a number of peaks with their climbing guests Rich Prohaska and Jia Condon. In late January, Landreth, Prohaska and Condon climbed *Whozuna?* (V 5.9, 18 pitches) in a 40-hour push on P.1050m in the Wall Range. Rich Prohaska and Jia Condon then climbed *Unazwhat?* (V 5.9 mixed A2) via the east buttress to the east summit of the Cape Renard Tower (a.k.a. Una's Tits, 747m) from February 1-4. An attempt of Wandel Peak (c.950m) on Booth Island was made via the north ridge in early February by all members of the group. A full account of their climbs appears earlier in this journal.

### QUEEN MAUD LAND

*Queen Maud Land, Various Ascents.* In the 1996-97 season, I was involved with the following ascents. Gordon Wiltsie, Michael Graber, Rick Ridgeway, John Krakauer, Alex Lowe and I made the first ascent of Rakekniven via the *Snow Petrel Wall* (VI 5.10 A3) on January 5. Krakauer, Lowe and I made the first ascent of Trollslottet via *The Three Sons* (IV 5.11 AO).

*Bruno Sourzac on the ice mushroom of the Ferrari route, Cerro Torre.* LAURENCE MONNOYEUR