

*Hichukhota Area, Various Ascents.* A French expedition spent seven days in the Hichukhota area and made the following ascents: Wila Llojeta (5244m), August 27; Jankho Huyo (5512m), August 28; Jishka Pata (5508m), August 30; the southeast ridge of Wila Lloje (5596m), August 31; and the southeast ridge of Warawarani (5604m), September 1. The expedition was made up of Florence Barrault, François-Xavier Grillon, Olivier Guidet and Gregoire Volluet. No further information was available.

YOSSI BRAIN, *United Kingdom*

*Condoriri Group, Overview.* The dry conditions meant that Cabeza de Condor (5648m) was devoid of snow and the few teams that attempted it reported extremely dangerous conditions (the peak is made of rotten loose rock). The popular Pequeño Alpamayo (5370m) was very icy and the descent to it from the minor peak of Tarija proved to be a loose-rock nightmare.

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*Ala Derecha, Possible New Route.* On August 7, Erik and Grigota Monasterio (Bolivia-New Zealand) climbed the ice face to the right of Ala Derecha and to the left of the rock band, west of the small but distinctive pyramidal snow peak marked Cerro Illampu on the IGM map (a.k.a. Techo de Paja, Diente). The possible new route was 400 meters long; the last three pitches to the col were 60-80° (D) on excellent ice. They then followed the ridge right to the base of the rock, from where it was 30 meters to the summit (F4). Descent was made via seven rappels, the first five of which were off ice bollards due to the very poor rock.

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*Huayna Potosí, West Face.* The increasingly popular 1000-meter West Face of Huayna Potosí (6088m) had very few ascents this year due to poor conditions. Spaniard Pere Vilarasau and Andorran Frank Van Herreweghe climbed the American Route (later named *Vía de Lyons* by French climbers unaware of the previous ascent) on July 7 in 11 hours. They reported IV+/V rock to access the face, which was covered in black ice the whole way up with sections up to 75°. Normally, the route is no more than 55-65°.

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*Milluni Valley, Various Ascents.* Slovenian Branko Ivanek, a La Paz resident and guide, made a number of probable first ascents of icefalls in the Milluni Valley, south of Huayna Potosí. On July 23, with Bolivian guide Marco Soria, he climbed an 80-meter icefall on Pico Milluni in five-and-a-half hours. Starting at 4940 meters, the route, which they called *Amistad*, was two pitches (UIAA IV, max. 90°) on ice five to ten centimeters thick. To the right of *Amistad* are two other icefall routes, *Branco Blues* (III/5) and *Bolivian Journeys* (III/4+), climbed by Neil Brodie (U.K.) and Patrick Berthet (France) on June 13.

YOSSI BRAIN, *United Kingdom*

*Illimani Group, Traverse.* British La Paz residents Yossi Brain and Peter Grosset teamed up with visiting Italians Alessandro Bianchi (Club Alpino Italiano-ULE Genova) and Marcello



Pico del Indio

Pico Norte de Parí

Pico Central

Pico Sur

Pico Layca Khotu

Co Salinas

Co Sillipata

Ecla Atahuallani

Ciudad Caibaya

Co Kankori

Mina Aguilar

Nuwa Khotu

ojran Pata

Mina Vera

Mina Mago Citare

Mina Huaca Juchina

Ecla Taini Pata

Ecla Machanamarca

Mina Padra Kuchuni

Co Kancha Itzani

Bolca Bisco

Co Achojpayá

Mesa Khala

Mina Hermans

Mina Hermans

Mina Hermans

Mina Hermans

Mina Hermans

Sanguineti (CAI Chiavari) to attempt the full five-peak traverse of Illimani (6439m) in August. The three-peak traverse of Picos Norte, Central and Sur is climbed on a reasonably regular basis starting from camp on the west side of the mountain. The five-peak traverse from north to south or vice versa has been attempted a number of times but there are only records of two completions, both south to north: Anton and Ria Putz (Germany) in 1979, and B. Francou, J.-E. Sicart, P. Wagnon (French), in 1997. Parties often get frostbite while spending several days above 6000 meters.

On August 25, the four climbers were driven to 4450 meters on the north side of Illimani below Mina Aguila, where the road marked on the Deutschen Alpenverein map runs out. A hike up-valley brought them to a long gully and then to a bivy among the rocks at 5400 meters, northwest of the first significant peak on the north ridge of Illimani.

On August 26, the team moved straight on to the glacier through nieve penitente ice spikes to join the north ridge at 5700 meters. They crossed two minor peaks before climbing the so-called (see below) Pico del Indio (6109m). They then climbed a 60° face to join the *Vía Khoyu Khoya* route on Pt. 6175m, which has a spectacular overhanging cornice clearly visible from Illimani's normal west face route approach and climb. They crossed Pt. 6175m and camped on the other side at 6150 meters at 4 p.m. Most of August 27 was spent in clouds, including the enjoyable technical finish to Pico Norte (6403m), a series of moves up to 70°. They then had to descend the long and exposed south ridge, which was in a bad condition, in wind and clouds. The clouds cleared just before sunset. They got off the ridge by down climbing the east side to reach a flat area to camp at 6170 meters at 10 p.m. On August 28, they rejoined the ridge, followed it down to the col between Picos Norte and Central and then spent the rest of the day climbing up the eastern side of the ridge to Pico Central (6362m). This was mainly walking but with some 60° climbing to reach the ridge proper, 150 meters below the summit. They topped out at 4 p.m. and descended to camp at 6260 meters in the broad col between Picos Central and Sur.

On August 29, they climbed Pico Sur (6439m), summiting by 8 a.m. After breakfast back at camp, they headed south, saw a peak (Pt. 6301m) that stands alone beyond the end of the ridge coming down from the southeast off Pico Central, and climbed it. They then dropped down to the base of the last of the five major peaks, Pico Layca Kholu (6159m), and climbed it, finishing on some beautiful névé and then dropping down through penitentes to get below 6000 meters for the first time in three days. It was then a tiring descent through deep snow up to their knees to the end of the glacier, where a series of down climbs and one rap brought them to the scree slopes by 6 p.m., where Brain and Grosset recovered the body of a Spanish climber from the previous year. They reached abandoned mine buildings and a possible camp at 7:30 p.m., one hour after sunset, but Grosset made the call for the forced march out to Cohoni to catch the 2 a.m. bus. Brain and Grosset reached Cohoni at 1:30 a.m., just in time to jump on the bus as it was pulling out of Cohoni square. The others missed the bus, slept in the square and had to wait for the telephone office to open at 8 a.m. the next day before ringing La Paz for a jeep to come and pick them up.

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