

*Cerro Stanhardt, Leonardo Da Vinci.* On the west face of Cerro Stanhardt, Frenchmen David Autheman and Antoine Noury attempted a new route to the summit of a pillar attached to the face, which they named "Punta Shanti." They reached a point 50 meters below the top of Punta Shanti, and rated their efforts to that point at 5+/A2+, ED. Their 500-meter attempt, which they called *Leonardo Da Vinci*, was climbed over a three-week period with extensive use of fixed ropes. The summit of Punta Shanti is some 500 meters lower than the summit of Stanhardt itself. It is unclear whether their original intentions were to climb the whole face or just to the summit of this secondary pillar. The route was climbed between November 13 and December 15.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina*

*Cerro Fitz Roy, Royal Flush.* In February, 1999, Peter Janschek and I did the third ascent of *Royal Flush* on Fitz Roy. After fixing six pitches, we stayed three days on the wall. Kurt Albert and Bernd Arnold, who put up *Royal Flush*, ended their route on the Swiss Edge, which is the top of a pillar right on the arête between the east and the north faces of Fitz Roy. On the Swiss Edge, *Royal Flush* meets up with *El Corazon*. Albert and Arnold did not climb higher than the Swiss Edge, so we had climbed all 34 pitches of *Royal Flush*. When continuing on *El Corazon* to the top, we only managed to climb two-and-a-half more pitches before a strong storm hit us 150 meters below the summit and forced us to abseil.

HEINZ ZAK, *Austria*

*Cerro Fitz Roy, Attempt.* Americans John Catto and Pete Gallagher attempted to climb a new route between the Cassarotto and *Devil's Dihedral* routes. Fixing ropes, they climbed nine pitches, but gave when they were confronted with continuous thin cracks that required very technical aid climbing. Mark Hesse (U.S.) also took part on a few of these attempts.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina*

*Cerro Fitz Roy, West Face, Ensueño.* Silvo Karo (Slovenia) and I arrived in Chaltén in the very last days of January with the obvious intention of doing some climbing, but also hoping for a lot of bad weather so we could enjoy the peaceful and calm life that the Patagonian forest provides. After a short excursion to the base of Cerro Pier Giorgio, we turned our sights to the west side of Cerro Fitz Roy. We did not have to wait long before the weather gave us an opportunity to use all the equipment we had brought with us. At 6 a.m. on February 11, we crossed *Supercanaleta's* bergschrund and immediately took a right turn onto the golden rock of *Ensueño*, first climbed by Andrea Sarchi, Mauro Giradi and Lorenzo Nadali (I) in 1995 over a five-day good-weather period (see *AAJ* 1996, pp. 11-18). We climbed in blocks and did some simul-climbing as well. By 4 p.m. we had free climbed all 37 pitches of this route, with the leader redpointing all pitches. The first ascent party had graded this route at 5.12 A1, but we thought a 5.11c rating was more accurate. We found the rock to be not as solid as expected in sections, and the climbing to be at times difficult, with long runouts and very tricky gear. The last few pitches were climbed in snowy and windy conditions. Upon reaching the *Supercanaleta* on its very last section around 4 p.m., we continued for a couple more pitches, but upon arriving at the Gendarme Ridge some four to five pitches from the

easy ground leading to the summit near where the American route joins the route, we were forced to retreat due to the rain/snow and strong winds. We were somewhat disappointed not to have reached the summit, but after many hours of rappelling in cold and wet conditions we were both quite sure that we had made the right decision. We were back in our camp in the Sitting Man Ridge by 1 a.m., in time for yet another big pot full of polenta. During the remaining two weeks we stayed in the area, the weather was never good enough for climbing, but we had a great time walking, reading, eating and hanging out with many good friends from Chaltén.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina*

*Aguja Mermoz, Vela y Viento.* Kurt Albert and Bernd Arnold (G) climbed a new route on the east buttress of Aguja Mermoz that they named *Vela y Viento* (5.12 b/c ED, 500m). They finished on January 9, after several weeks of attempts with the use of fixed ropes. This line was previously attempted in 1993 by Tophier Donahue and Kennan Harvey (U.S.), who climbed to within 20 meters of the summit ridge but were forced to retreat due to a very iced-up chimney. The route features well-bolted anchors and bolts next to cracks (Harvey and Donahue had climbed much of the same line without placing bolts or using fixed ropes).

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina*

*Aguja St. Exupery, West Face, Attempt.* Greg Crouch and J. Jay Brooks (U.S.) attempted to climb a new route on the west face of Aguja St. Exupery to the right of *Chiaro di Luna*, but despite many valiant attempts in less than ideal weather, they were forced to give up the idea after having climbed some nine pitches. Their best attempt took place February 12.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina*

*Argentine Patagonia, Various Activity.* As we had the preceding season, we arrived at Chaltén at the beginning of October with a head full of ideas. But “el tiempo” did not give us the same luck. Nevertheless, we had a very good time in this beautiful range.

From November 7 to 19, we climbed the Volcan Lautaro (3380m) in the middle of the Ice cap, which we reached in five days via Paso Marconi. We skied up two-thirds of the way to a cirque between the south and southeast ridges, then continued via an easy walk with crampons to the south summit. From there, it was a short walk down and across the crater to reach the top among incredible rime formations. We were super surprised to discover the volcano to be active—*islands of hot rock and gas in an arctic ambiance!* We then had a very good ski down.

On December 5, we attempted Cerro Pier Giorgio in alpine style via the *Greenpeace* route. We twice reached a point a third of the way up the face on the best granite we have ever seen. After a really hanging bivy (due to strong wind), we changed our minds about continuing. N.B.: After the first pitch, do not follow the old fixed rope. It leads too far to the right—the wrong direction.

On December 12, we climbed the east face of Val Biois via the Gabarrou-Marsigny-Vimal goullete, an unbelievable ice line, finding wet snow and wet ice conditions.

We also climbed Fitz Roy via the classic Franco-Argentine route during a limited good